



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES

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The CERN Accelerator School

# *Superconductors for magnets*

*From the materials to the technical conductors*

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Department of Quantum Matter Physics  
University of Geneva, Switzerland*

# ***Outline***

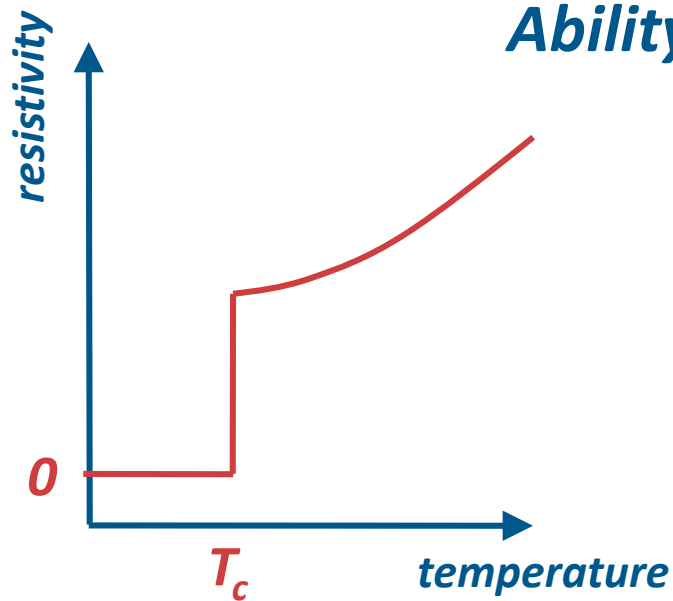
## ***A short introduction to superconductivity***

- ***Type-I vs. Type-II – why Type-II is better?***
- ***Vortex pinning and critical current***

## ***From the materials to the technical conductors***

- ***LTS : Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn properties and wire technology***
- ***HTS : YBCO properties and wire technology***

# Discovery of Superconductivity in 1911



*Ability to carry a current without dissipation*

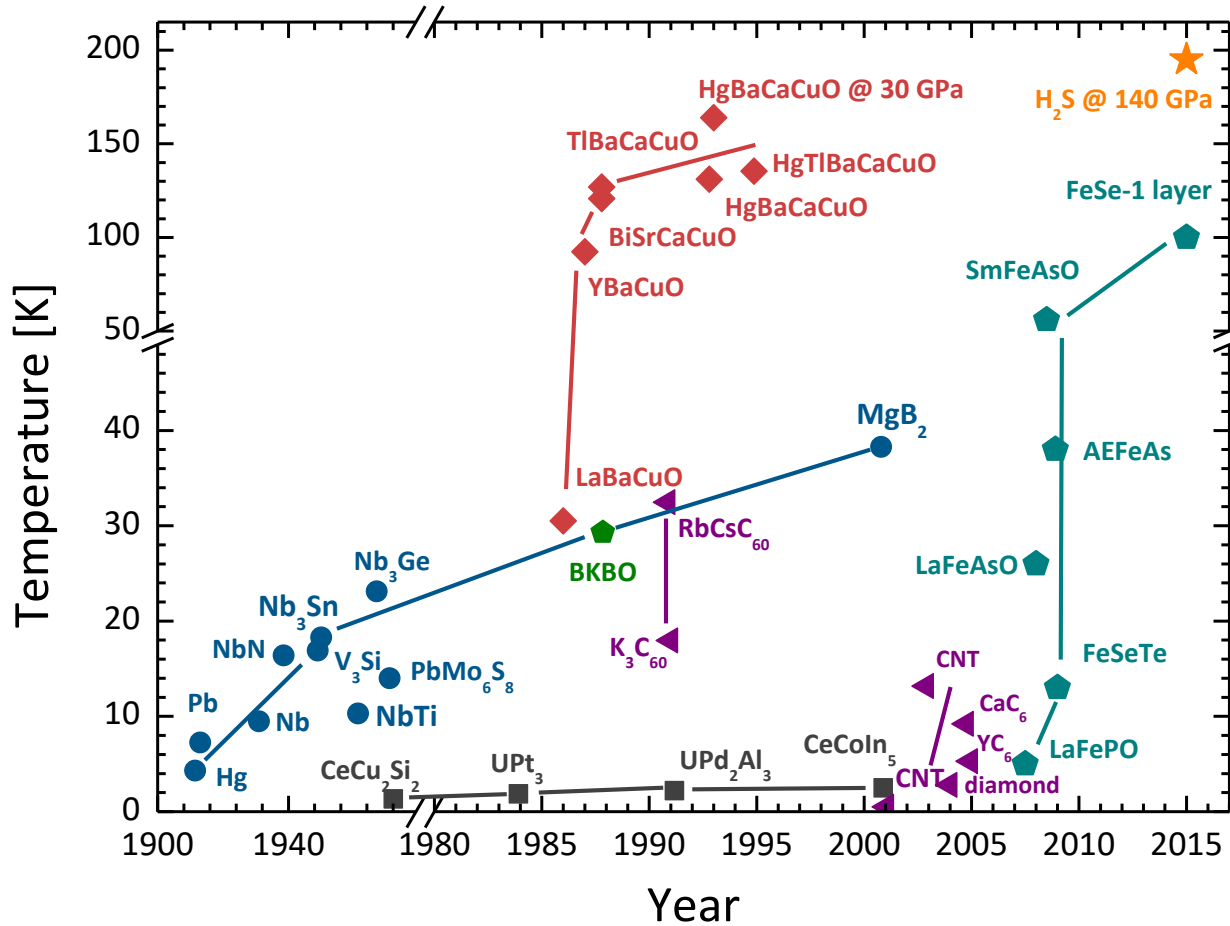
- *Transport of energy*
- *Generation of high magnetic fields*

*Drawbacks:*

*Loss-less currents cannot exceed the **critical current  $I_c$***

*1000+ superconducting compounds, very few for practical use*

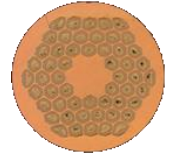
# Superconductors History



NbTi



Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn



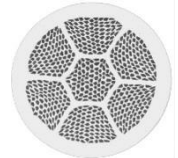
MgB<sub>2</sub>



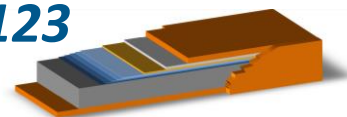
Bi2223



Bi2212



Y123



Night on the Moon

Liquid nitrogen

Surface of Pluto

Liquid neon

Liquid hydrogen

Liquid helium

# Key facts about superconductors

1) There are two characteristic lengths in a superconductor

$$\xi = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2m^*|\alpha|}}$$

coherence length

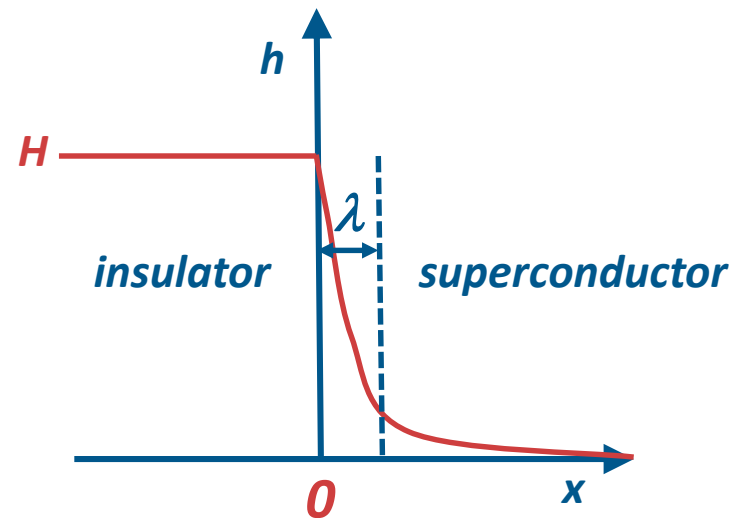
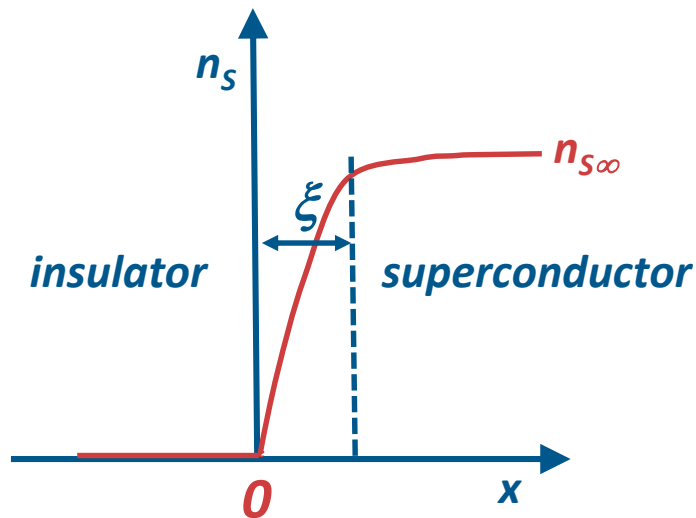
and

$$\lambda = \sqrt{\frac{m^*c^2}{4\pi n_s^2 e^{*2}}}$$

penetration depth

$\xi$  defines the space modulation of the “superelectron” density  $n_s$

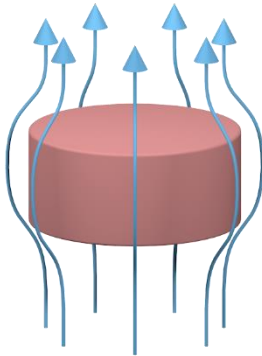
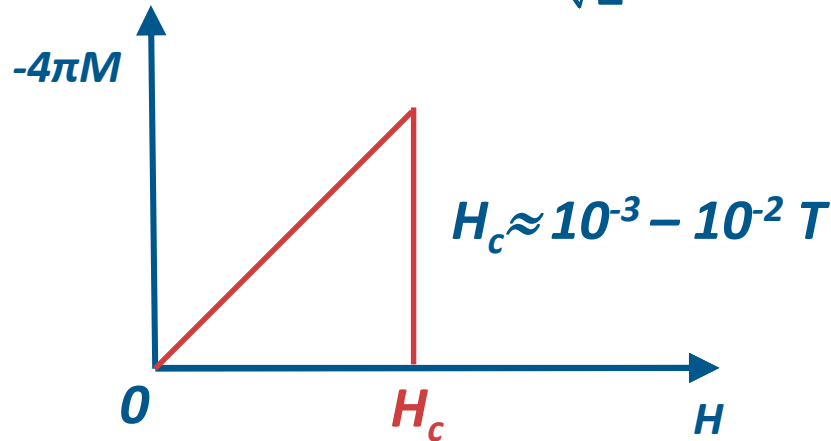
$\lambda$  characterizes the distance to which a magnetic field penetrates into a superconductor



# Key facts about superconductors

2) There are two types of superconductors, depending on  $\kappa = \frac{\lambda}{\xi}$   
*Ginzburg-Landau parameter*

Type-I for  $\kappa < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

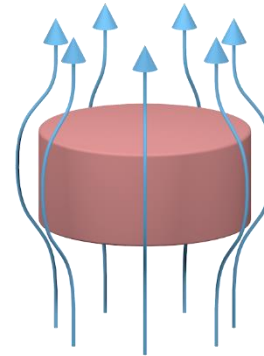
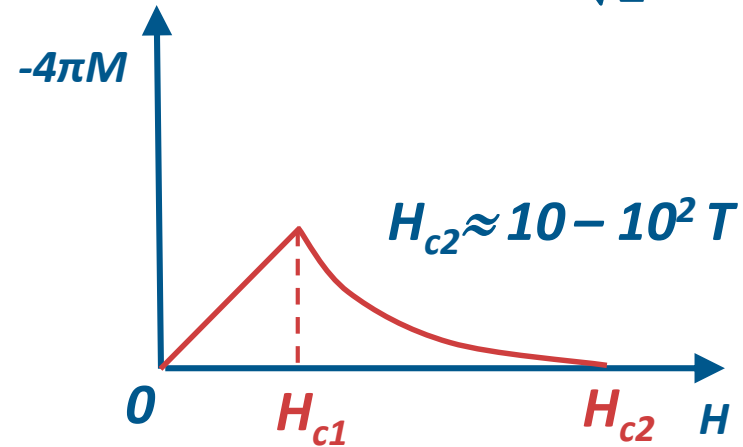


$H < H_c$

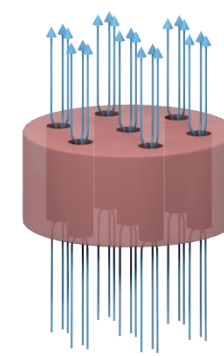
*The Meissner Effect*

$$-4\pi M = H - B$$

Type-II for  $\kappa > \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$



$H < H_{c1}$



$H_{c1} < H < H_{c2}$

## ***Key facts about superconductors***

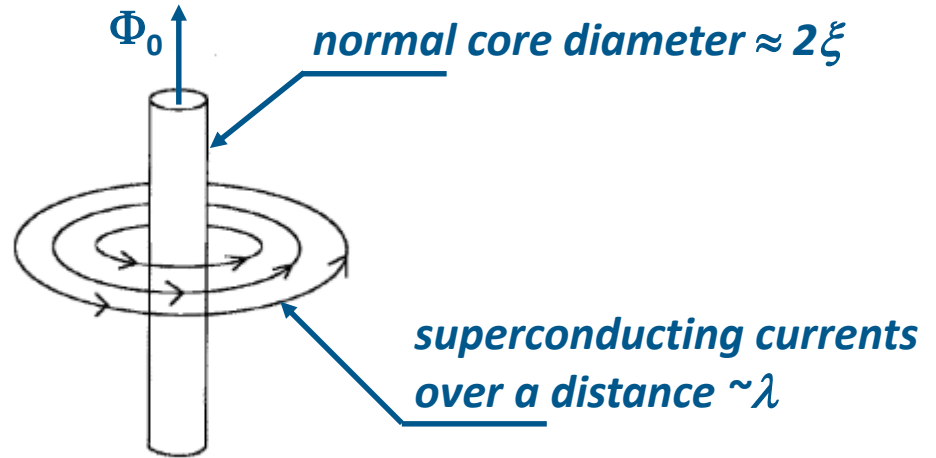
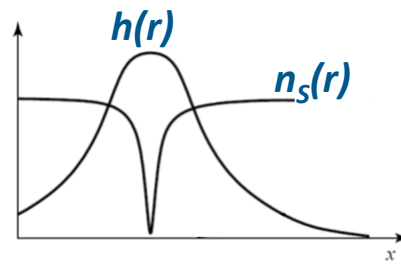
***3) In a type-I superconductor, superconducting currents are confined to the surface in a  $\lambda$ -thick layer***

***4) In a type-II superconductor, the critical fields are related to the characteristic lengths***

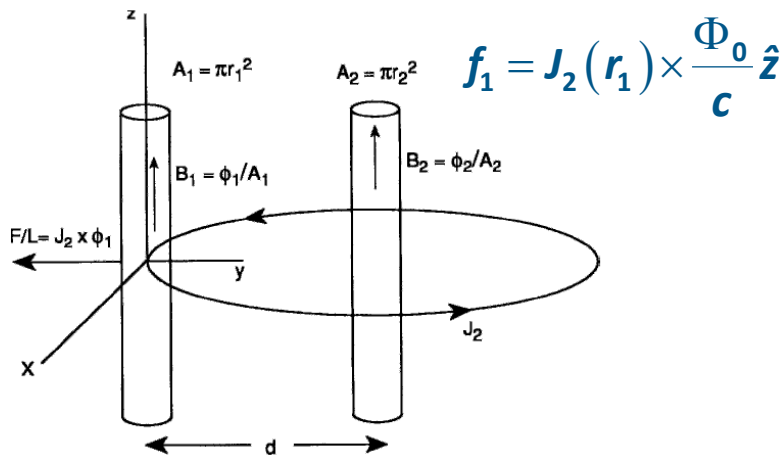
$$H_{c1} = \frac{\Phi_0}{4\pi\lambda^2} \ln \kappa = \frac{H_c}{\sqrt{2\kappa}} \ln \kappa \qquad H_{c2} = \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi\xi^2} = \sqrt{2\kappa} H_c$$

***5) In a type-II superconductor, magnetic flux penetrates beyond  $H_{c1}$ . The entering flux is fractionated in vortices, each one carrying a flux quantum  $\Phi_0 = hc/2e$***

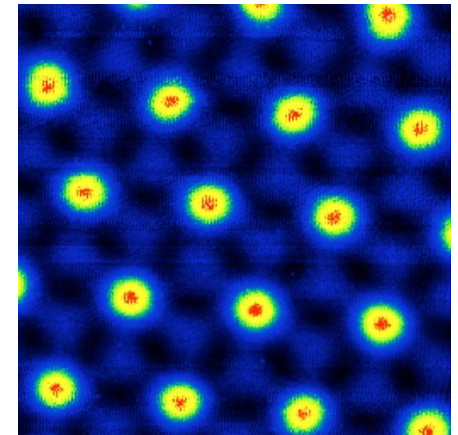
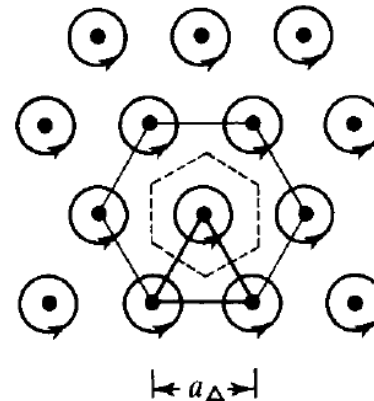
# What is a vortex?



**Vortices repel each other...**



**The Abrikosov lattice**  
**... and arrange on a regular lattice**





# Vortex motion and dissipation: the Flux Flow

Let's focus on the effects of a transport current density  $J$

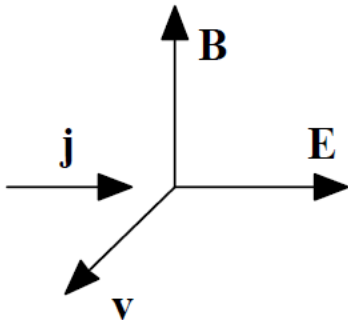
On a single vortex

$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{J} \times \frac{\Phi_0}{c} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

On the vortex lattice

$$\mathbf{F} = \sum \mathbf{f} = n_v \mathbf{f} = \mathbf{J} \times n_v \frac{\Phi_0}{c} \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{J} \times \frac{\mathbf{B}}{c}$$

Therefore, vortices tend to move transverse to  $J$ . If  $\mathbf{v}$  is their velocity



$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{B} \times \frac{\mathbf{v}}{c}$$

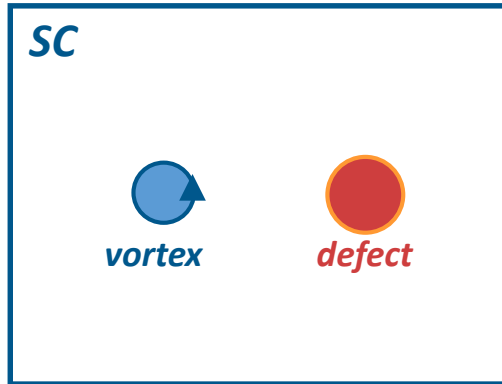
**DISSIPATION !!**

*The Flux Flow resistivity*

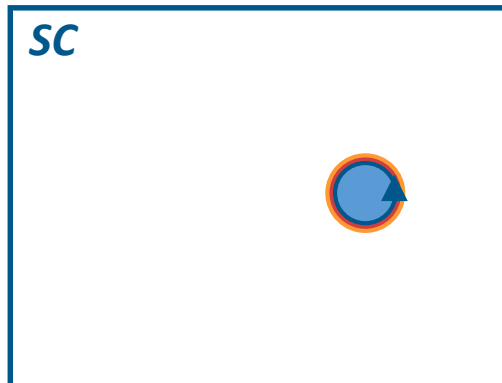
$$\rho_{ff} = \rho_n \frac{B}{B_{c2}}$$

# Vortex-defect interaction

Let's consider defects – precipitates, grain boundaries, etc. – whose size is comparable with the coherence length  $\xi$



$$\Delta G = \underbrace{\Delta G_{\text{condensation}}(\text{defect}) + \Delta G_{\text{condensation}}(\text{vortex})}_{\text{energy loss}} - \underbrace{\Delta G_{\text{mag}}}_{\text{energy gain}}$$



$$\Delta G = \underbrace{\Delta G_{\text{condensation}}(\text{defect})}_{\text{energy loss}} - \underbrace{\Delta G_{\text{mag}}}_{\text{energy gain}}$$

*The defect acts as a potential well  $U(r)$*

*The vortex is pinned at the defect position*

*The force to extract the vortex from the defect is  $f_p = -\nabla U(r)$*

# *Vortex-defect interaction*

$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{J} \times \frac{\Phi_0}{c} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

*Force exerted from J*

$$\mathbf{f}_p = \mathbf{J}_c \times \frac{\Phi_0}{c} \hat{\mathbf{z}}$$

*Pinning Force exerted  
from defects*

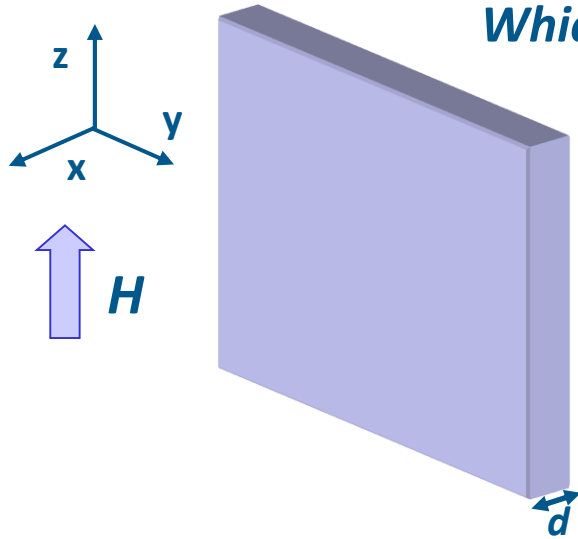
*$\mathbf{J}_c$  is the critical current density*

*If  $f < f_p$  then  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\rho = 0$*

*If  $f > f_p$  then  $\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}$  and  $\rho \neq 0$*

*Only superconductors with defects are truly superconducting ( $\rho = 0$ ) !!*

# Vortex pinning and critical state: the Bean model

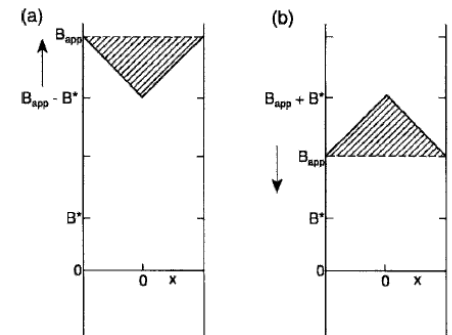
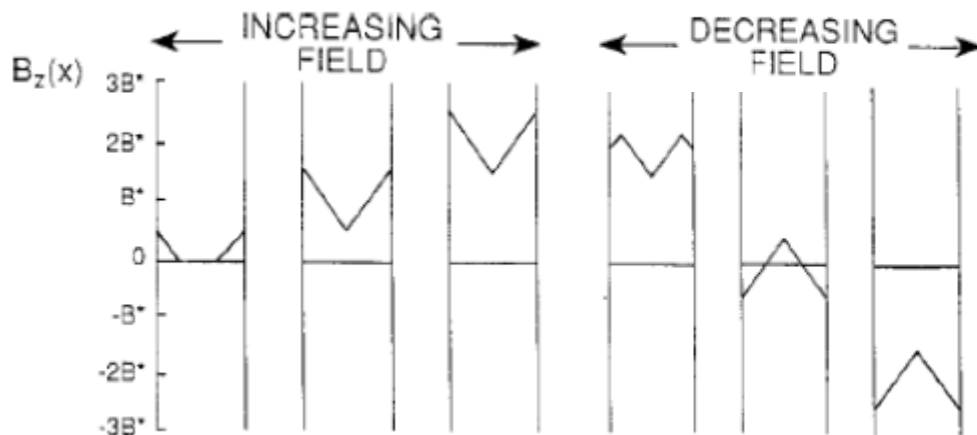


Which is the shape of the field profile in the superconductor?

$$1) \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \frac{4\pi}{c} \mathbf{J}$$

$$2) \quad F = \frac{JB}{c} = \frac{1}{4\pi} B \frac{dB}{dx} \leq F_p = \frac{J_c B}{c}$$

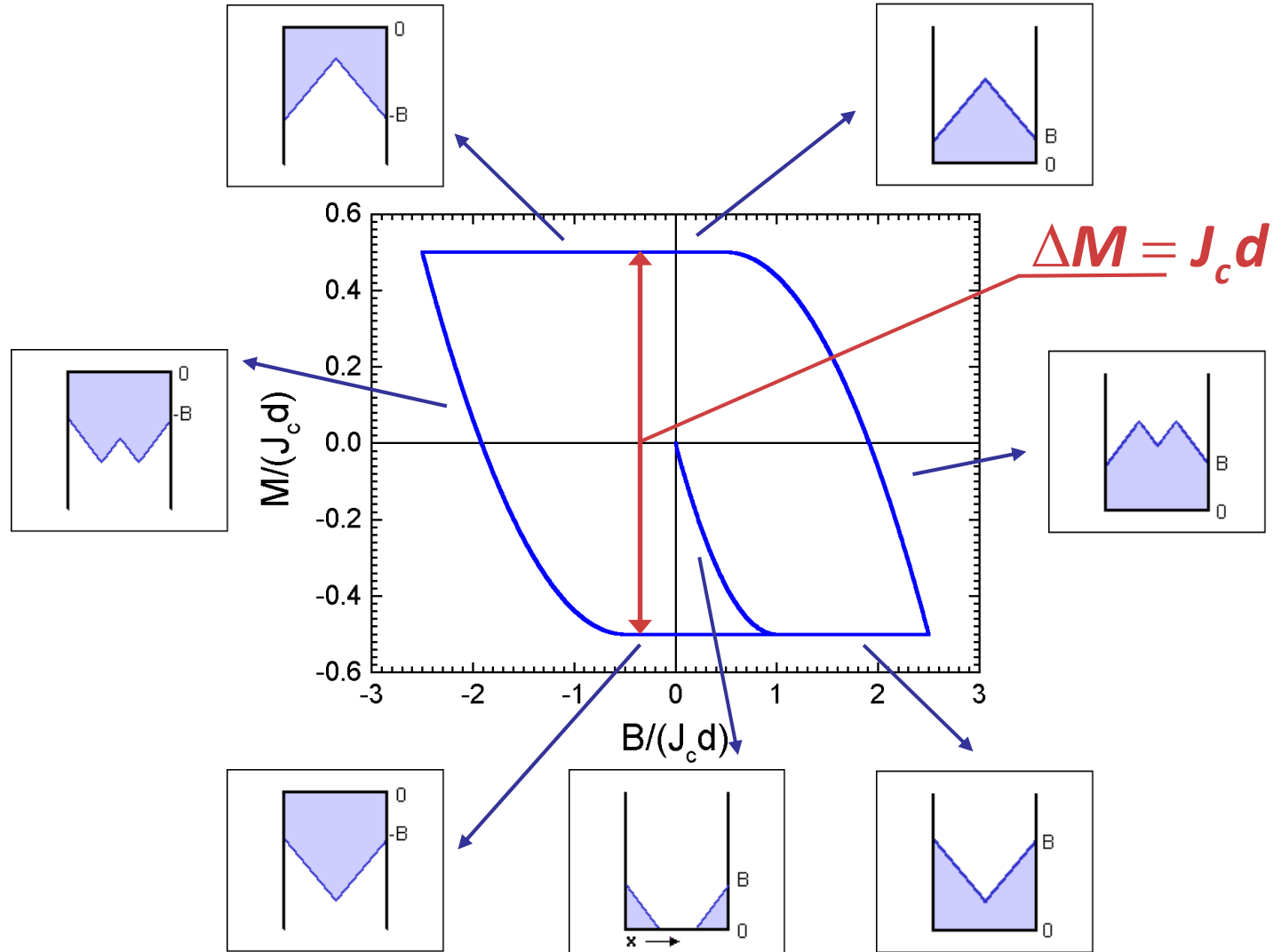
The assumption of the Bean model is  $F = F_p \Rightarrow \frac{dB}{dx} = \frac{4\pi}{c} J_c$



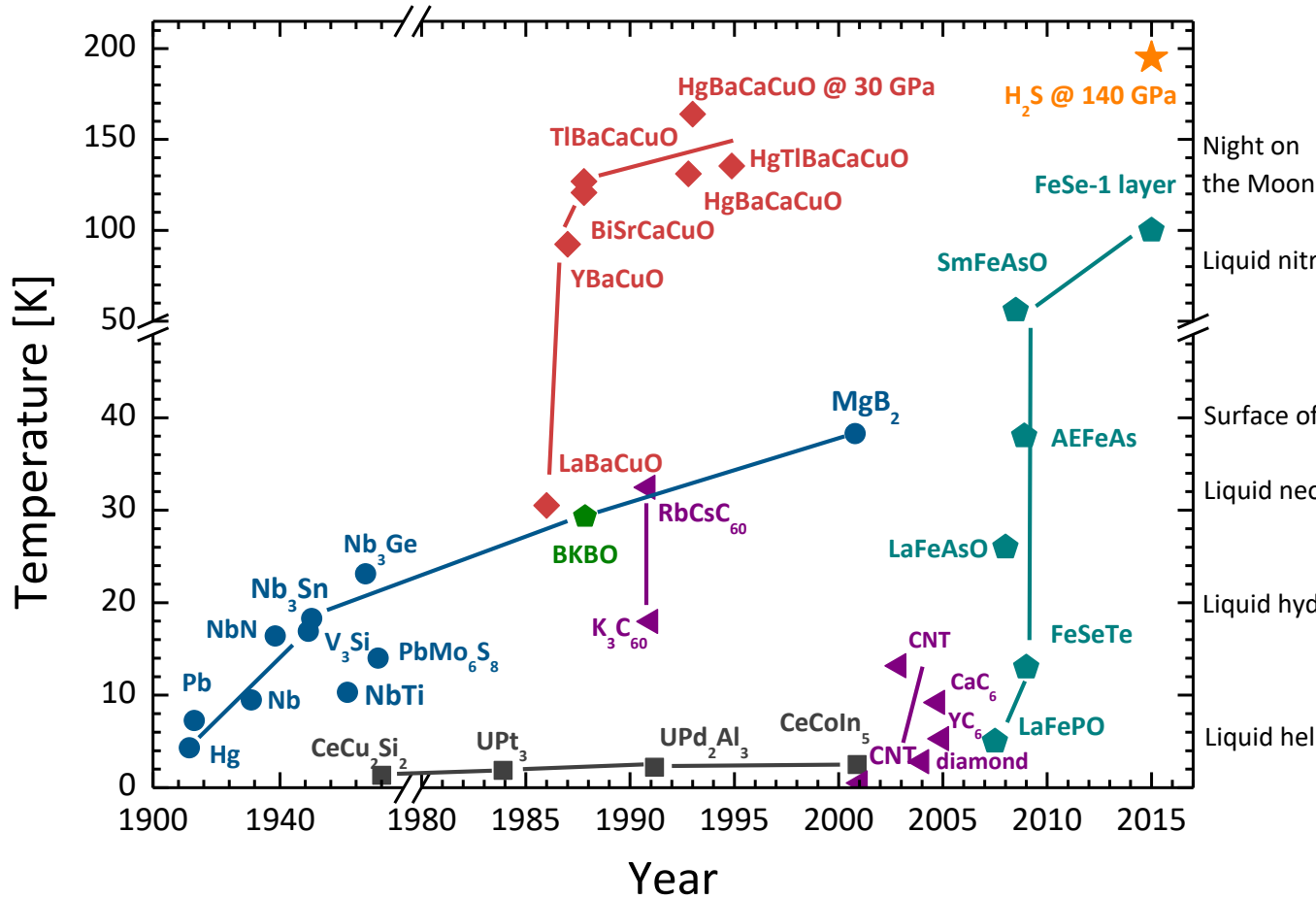
The triangle area is the magnetization of the sample

# Critical state: Hysteresis loop

**Hysteresis  $\equiv$  LOSSES**



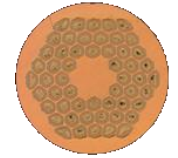
# Superconductors History



**NbTi**



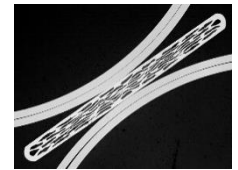
**Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn**



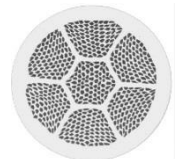
**MgB<sub>2</sub>**



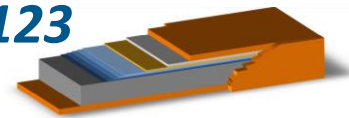
**Bi2223**



**Bi2212**

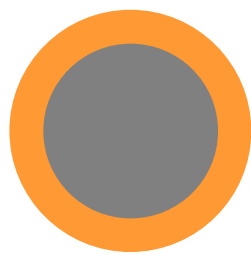


**Y123**

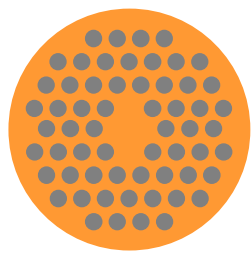


Why superconducting wires are (almost) all **multifilamentary** ?

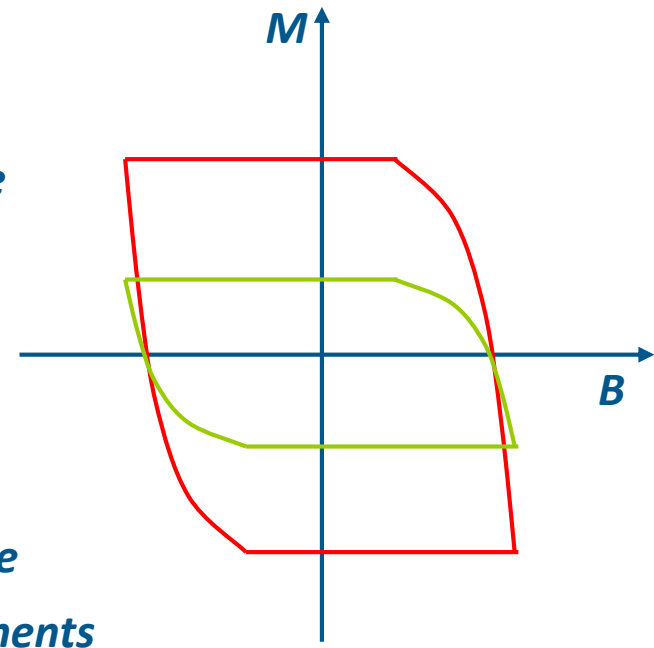
# Why superconducting wires are all multifilamentary ?



$\Delta M \propto J_c d$   
*d is the filament size*



$\Delta M \propto n J_c d$   
*d is the filament size*  
*n is the number of filaments*



*With the subdivision of the superconducting layer in filaments, hysteretic losses are reduced but the critical current  $I_c = J_c A_{SC}$  is unchanged*

*... but this is not the only reason ...*

# Flux jumps and Thermal instabilities

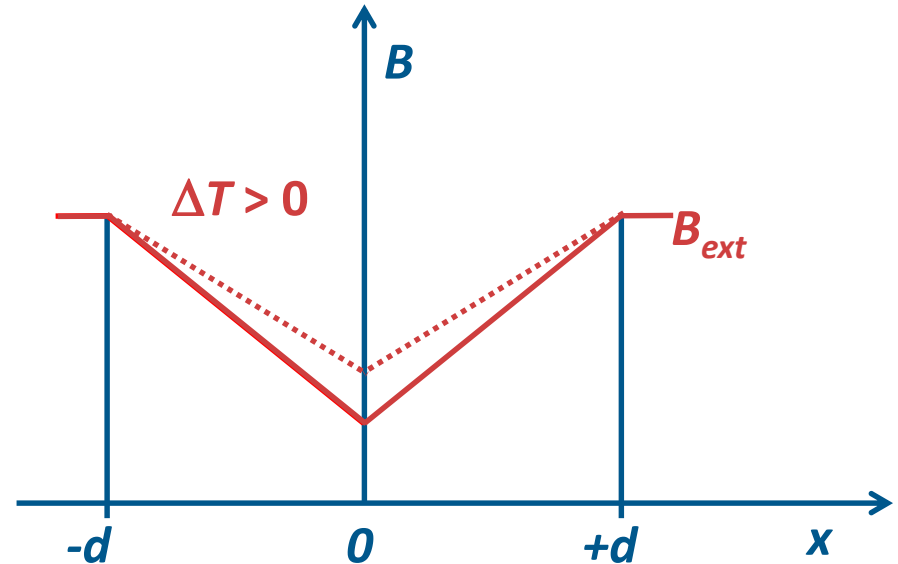
In the adiabatic approximation

$$\Delta T > 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Delta J_c < 0$$

↑↑

↓↓

$$\Delta Q > 0 \quad \Leftarrow \quad \Delta E > 0$$



If  $\Delta Q_{\text{ext}}$  is the initial perturbation, the heat balance for the slab is

$$c\Delta T = \Delta Q_{\text{ext}} + \frac{\mu_0 J_c^2 d^2}{3(T_c - T_{op})} \Delta T$$

Because of the energy stored in the current, the effective specific heat is

$$c_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\Delta Q_{\text{ext}}}{\Delta T} = c - \frac{\mu_0 J_c^2 d^2}{3(T_c - T_{op})}$$

**$c_{\text{eff}}$  can become zero  $\Rightarrow$  ultimate thermal catastrophe !!**



# Flux jumps and Thermal instabilities

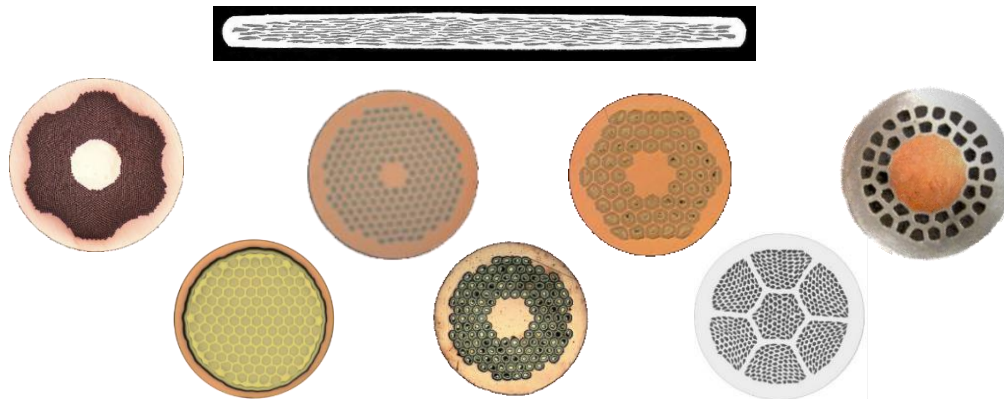
The stability condition is

$$c_{\text{eff}} = c - \frac{\mu_0 J_c^2 d^2}{3(T_c - T_{\text{op}})} > 0$$

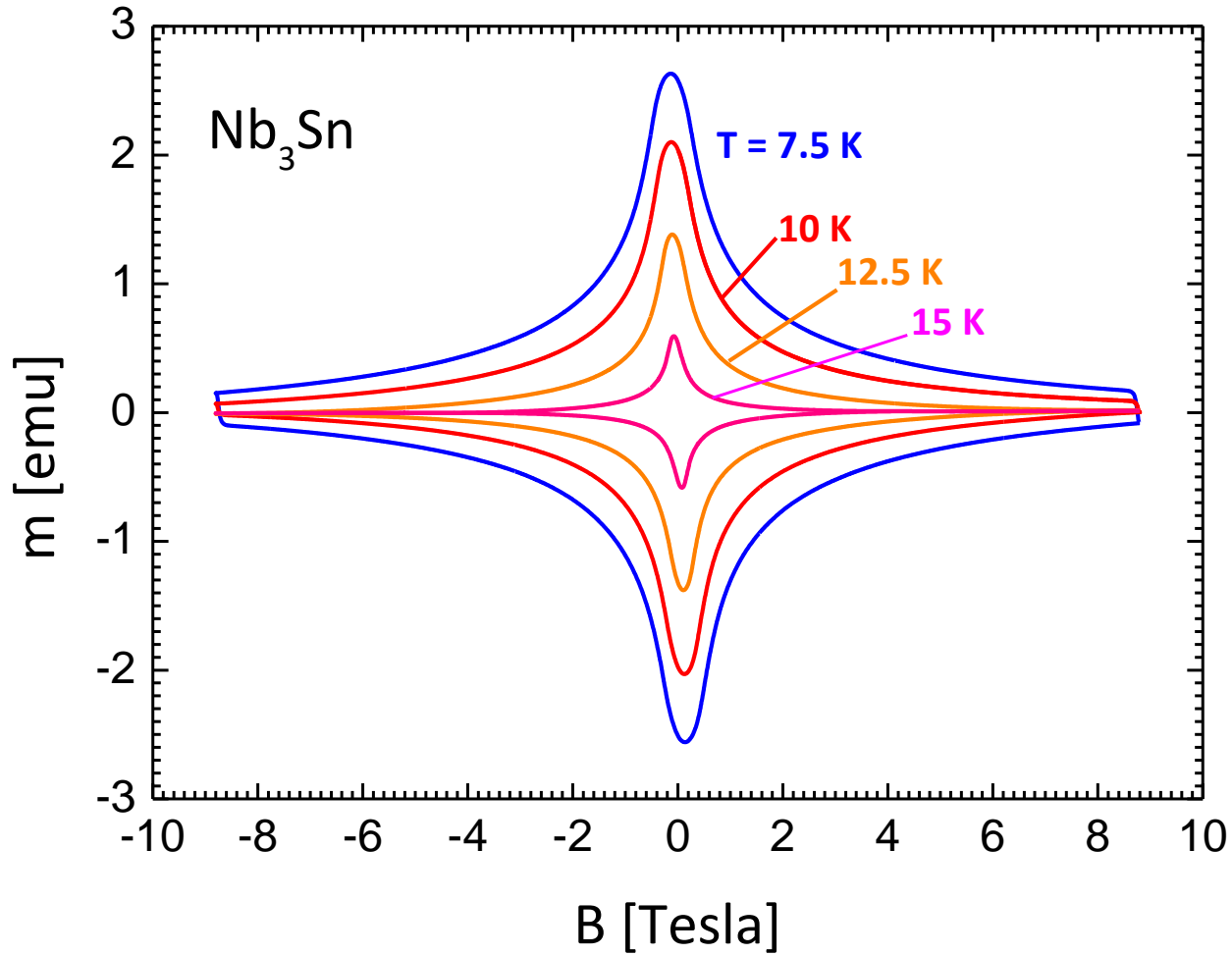
A superconducting wire must be designed in such a way that

$$\frac{\mu_0 J_c^2 d^2}{c(T_c - T_{\text{op}})} \ll 3$$

And this demands the subdivision of the superconductor in fine filaments

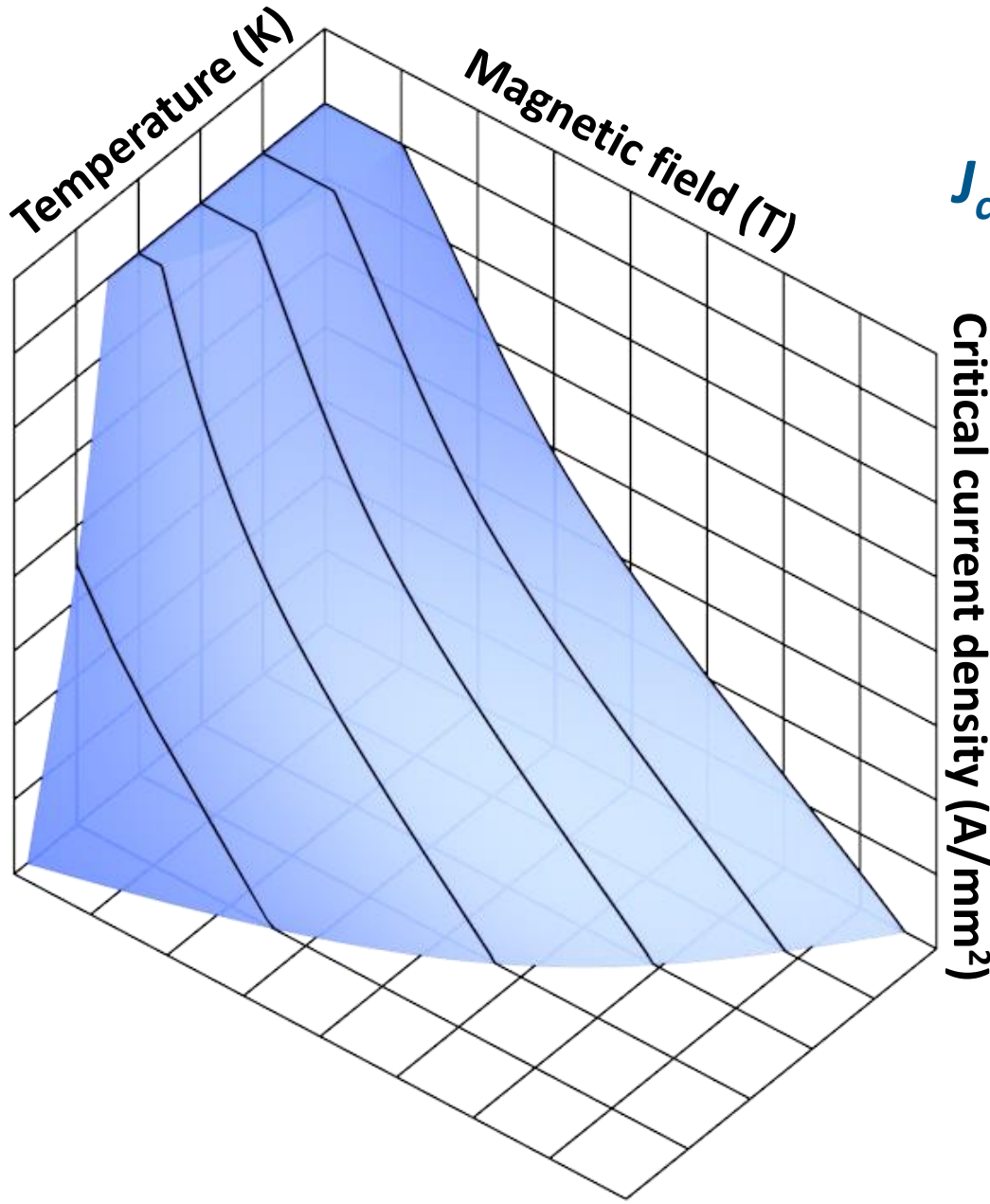


# Field and temperature dependence of $J_c$



$$\Delta M = \Delta M(B, T) \Rightarrow J_c = J_c(B, T)$$

# The critical surface $J_c(B, T, \dots)$

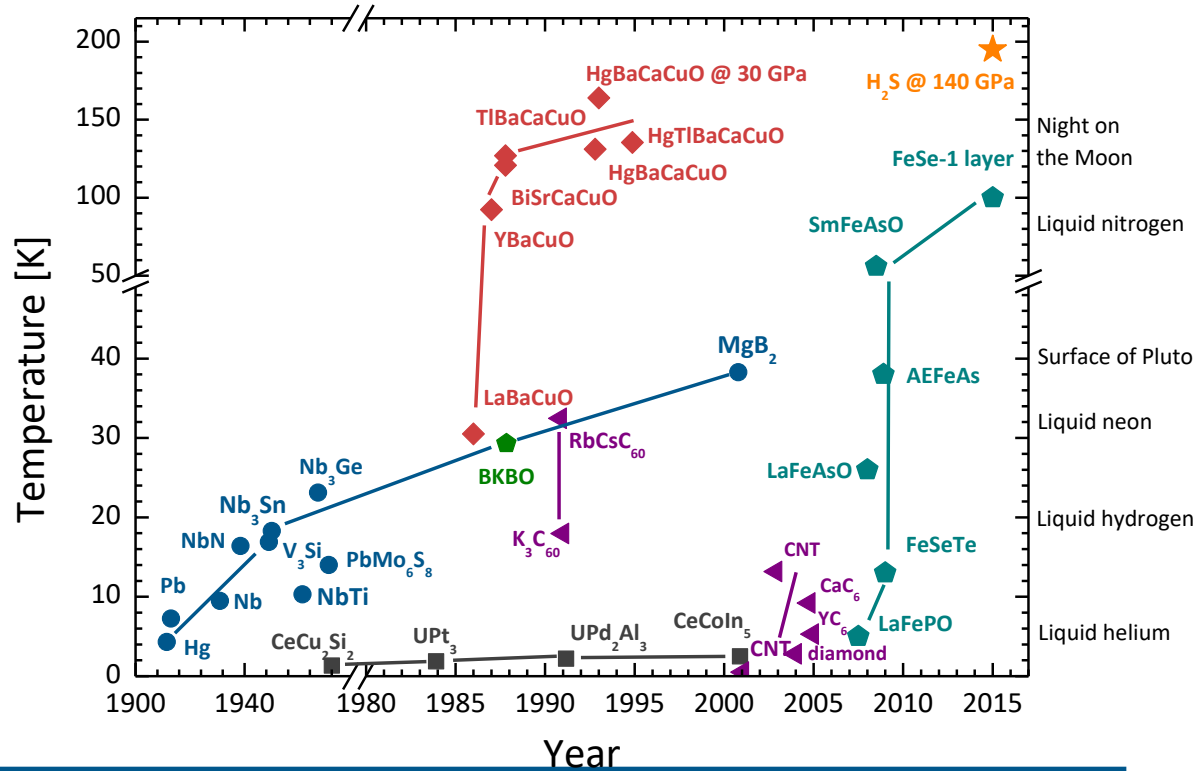


$J_c$  depends also on:

- *the applied stress*
- *the magnetic field orientation (only for anisotropic superconductors)*

*From superconducting materials...*

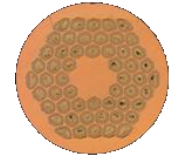
*...to technical superconductors*



**NbTi**



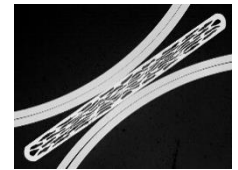
**Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn**



**MgB<sub>2</sub>**



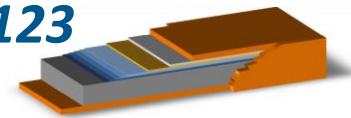
**Bi2223**



**Bi2212**



**Y123**



- |                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Superconducting ?               | 10'000 |
| 2. $T_c > 4.2K$ & $B_{c2} > 10T$ ? | 100    |
| 3. $J_c > 1000 A/mm^2$ ?           | ~10    |

*In the following...*

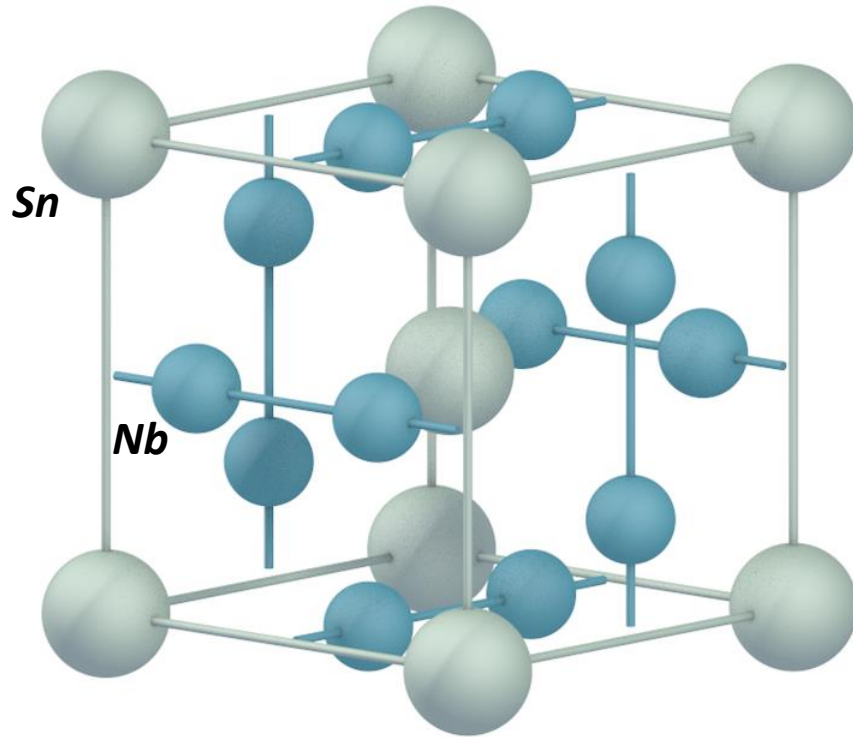


**$Nb_3Sn$**  → the  superconductor and only candidate material for the 16 T dipoles of  

**YBCO** → the way to get 20 T dipoles and beyond



# Introduction to $Nb_3Sn$



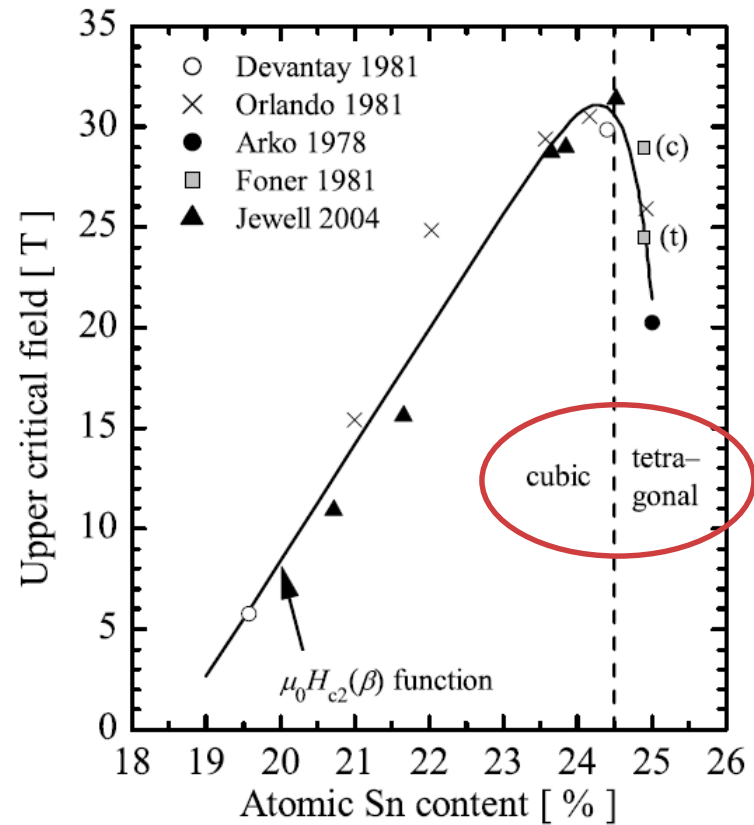
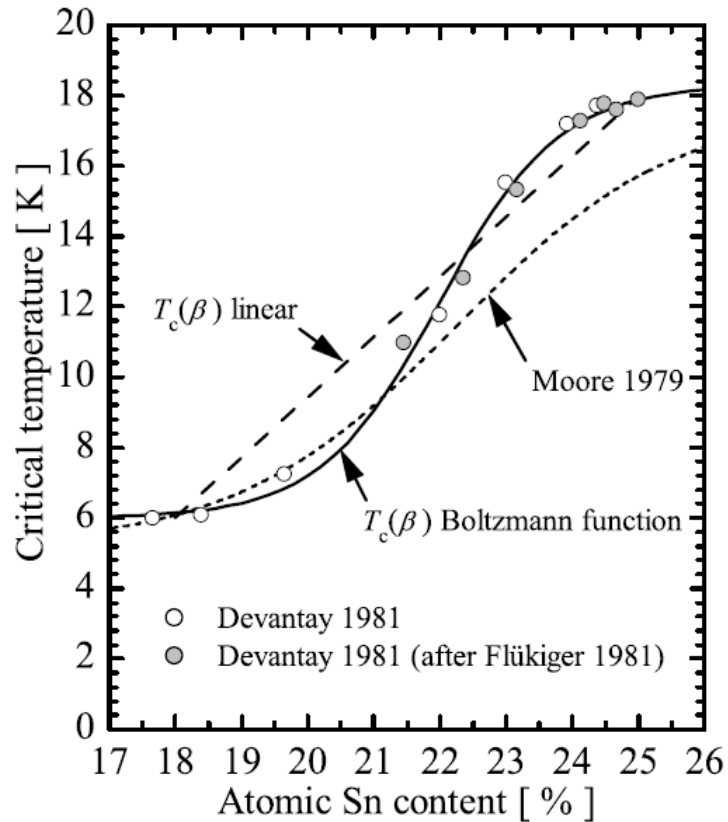
$Nb_3Sn$  is the prototype of A15 superconductors

*B.T. Matthias et al., PR 95 (1954) 1435*

B \ A <sub>3</sub>	Ti	Zr	V	Nb	Ta	Cr	Mo
	4	4	5	5	5	6	6
Al 3			11.8	18.8			0.6
Ga 3			16.8	20.3			0.8
In 3			13.9	9.2			
Tl 3				9			
Si 4			17.1	19			1.7
Ge 4			11.2	23.2	8.0	1.2	1.8
Sn 4	5.8	0.9	7.0	18.0	8.4		
Pb 4		0.8		8.0	17		
As 5			0.2				
Sb 5	5.8		0.8	2.2	0.7		
Bi 5		3.4		4.5			
Tc 7							15.0
Re 7							15.0
Ru 8						3.4	10.6
Os 8			5.7	1.1		4.7	12.7
Rh 9			1.0	2.6	10.0	0.3	
Ir 9	5.4		1.7	3.2	6.6	0.8	9.6
Pd 10			0.08				
Pt 10	0.5		3.7	10.9	0.4		8.8
Au 11		0.9	3.2	11.5	16.0		

A15 are intermetallic compounds with  $A_3B$  formula

# *Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn : the Superconductor for high fields (today)*



	$T_c$ [K]	$B_{c2}$ [T]
<b><i>Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn</i></b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>30+</b>

*Nb<sub>3+x</sub>Sn<sub>1-x</sub> is superconducting also when deviates from stoichiometry*

# *How to rise $H_{c2}$ – Let's play it dirty*

*For a clean, ordered superconductor*

$$H_{c2} = \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi\xi^2}$$

*Disorder reduces the electron mean free path  $\ell$ , which in turn leads to decrease of  $\xi$*

$$\frac{1}{\xi(\ell)} = \frac{1}{\xi(\infty)} + \frac{1}{\ell}$$

*An useful expression of  $H_{c2}$  in the dirty limit*

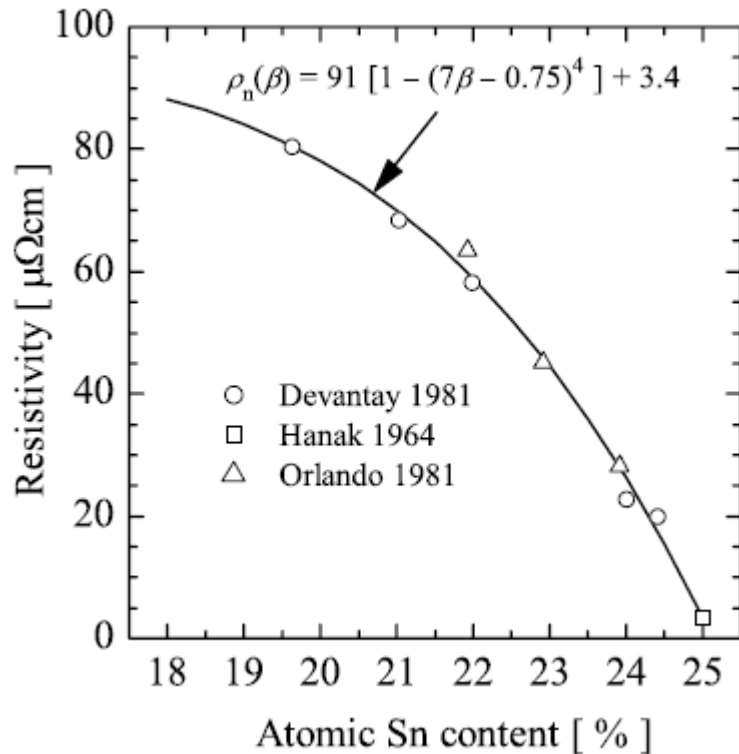
$$H_{c2}(T=0) \cong \frac{k_B e}{\mu_0} N(E_F) \rho_n T_c \propto \gamma \rho_n T_c$$



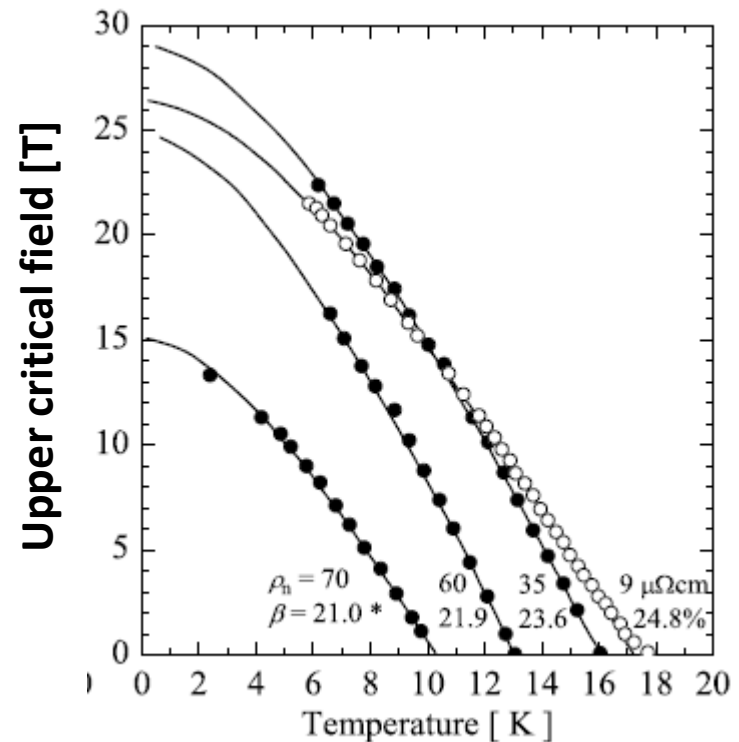
# How to rise $H_{c2}$ in $Nb_3Sn$

$$H_{c2} \propto \gamma \rho_n T_c$$

Resistivity vs. Sn at.%



$H_{c2}$  vs.  $T$  at various Sn at.%

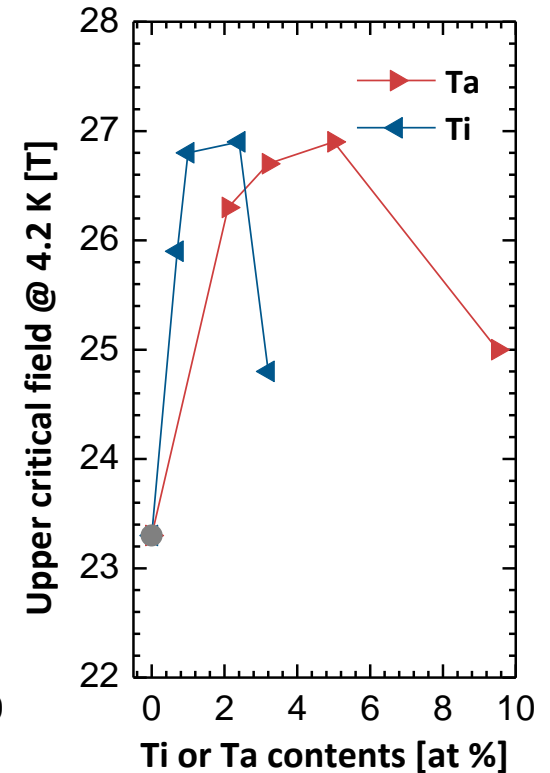
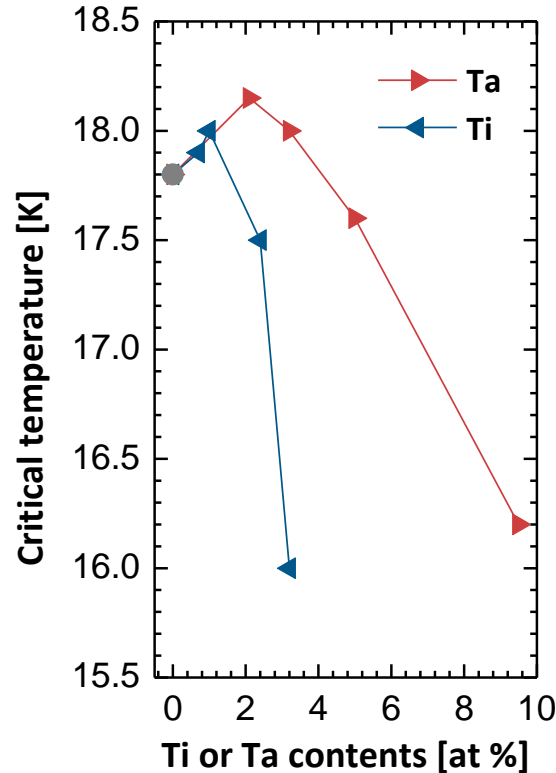
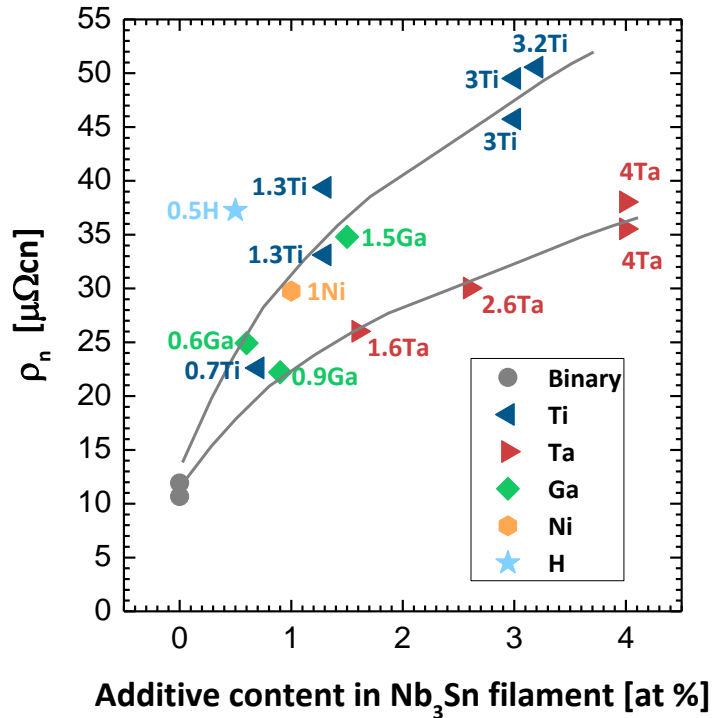


Reducing Sn content rises  $\rho_n$ , but reduces  $T_c$ . Other ideas ?

# Alloying (doping) $Nb_3Sn$ to rise $H_{c2}$

$$H_{c2} \propto \gamma \rho_n T_c$$

The additions of Ta and Ti are particularly beneficial



$(Nb,Ta)_3Sn$  and  $Nb_3(Sn,Ti)$

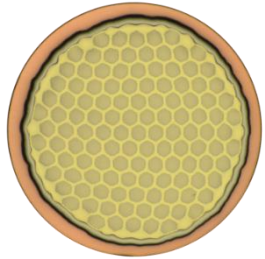
$$\frac{H_{c2}(4.2\text{ K})}{H_{c2}(0\text{ K})} = 0.89$$

M. Suenaga et al., JAP 59 (1986) 840

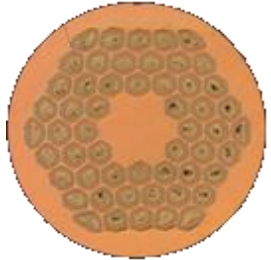
R. Flükiger et al., Cryogenics 48 (2008) 293

# Industrial fabrication of $Nb_3Sn$ wires

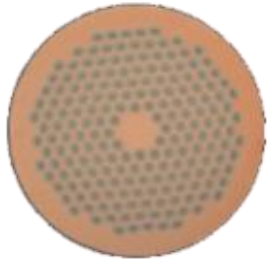
Three technologies have been developed at industrial scale



- *Bronze route*



- *Internal Sn diffusion*



- *Powder in tube*

*The Sn source is  
the main difference*

Presently produced by

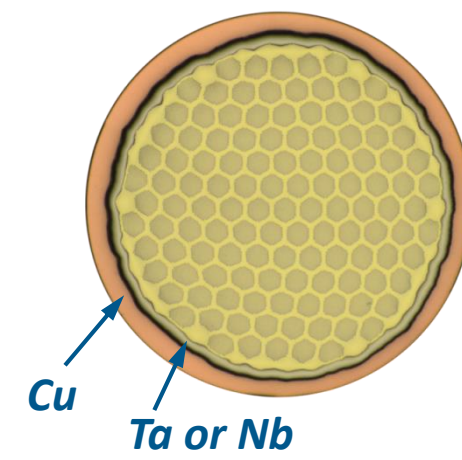
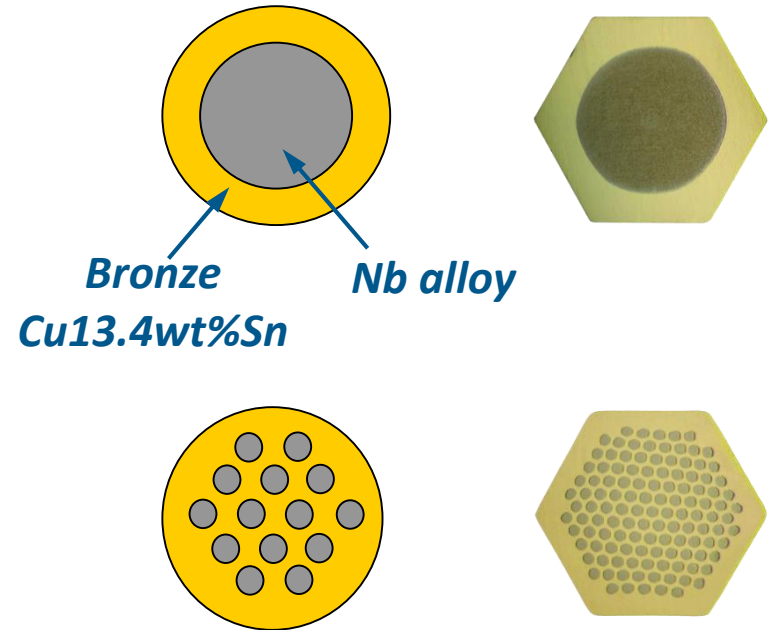
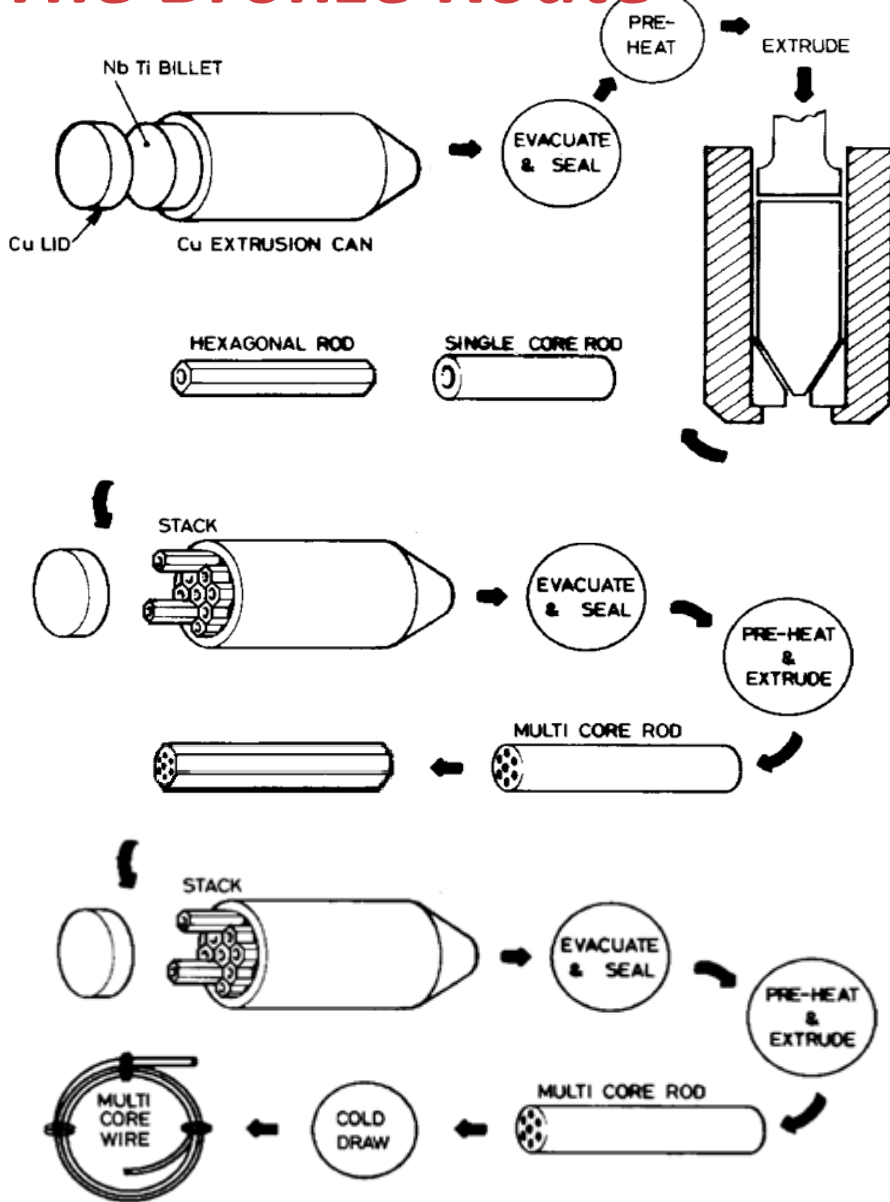


LUVATA

 Western Superconducting  
Technologies Co.,Ltd.



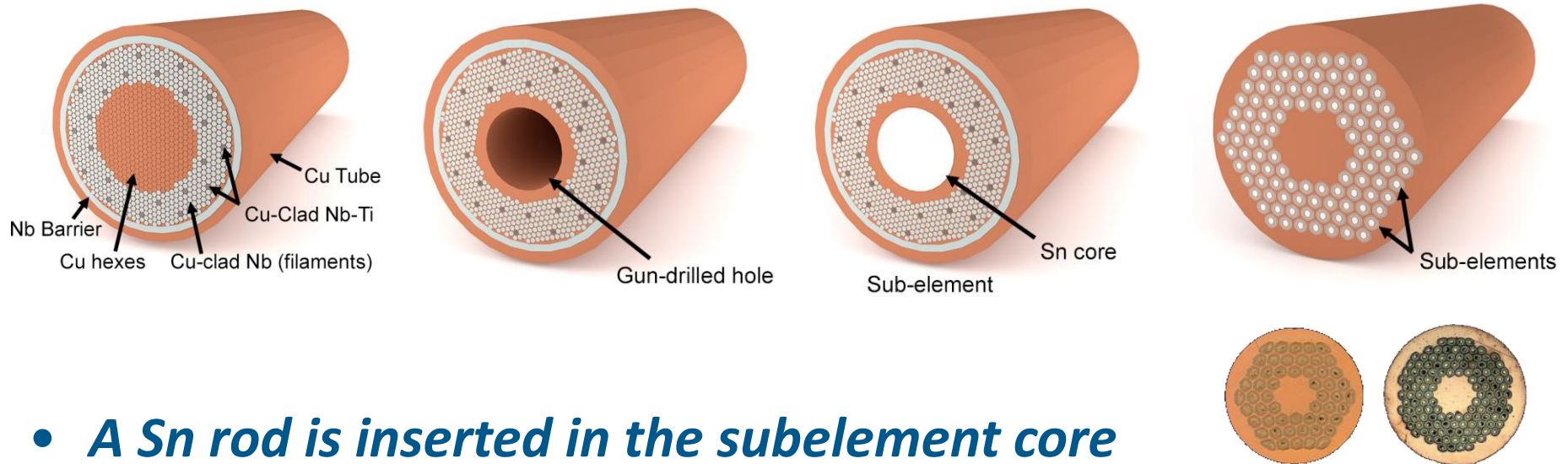
# The Bronze Route



*Cu-Sn bronze is used as Sn source  
The final filament size is  $\sim 5 \mu\text{m}$*

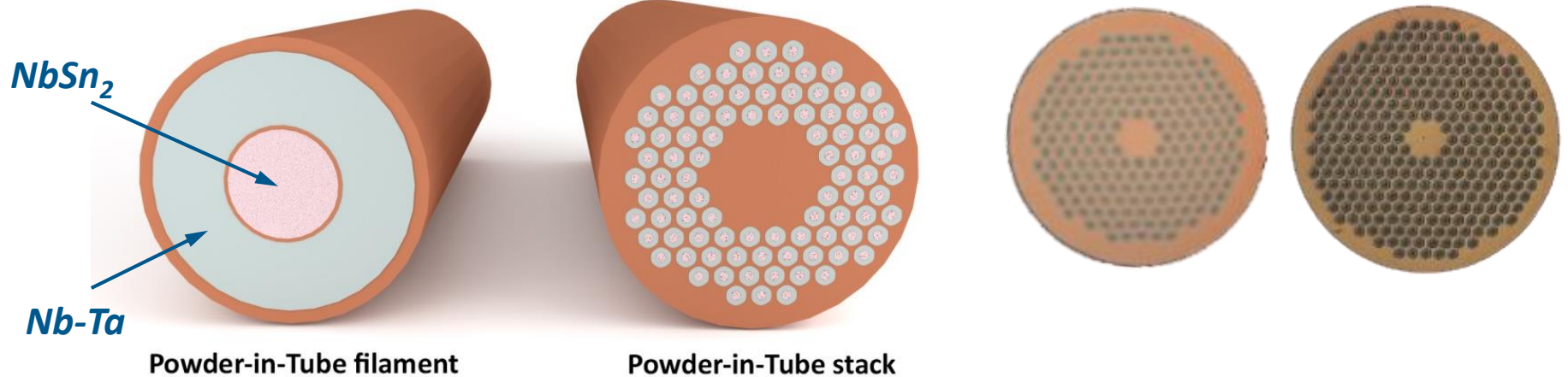
*Wires are then reacted at  $\sim 650^\circ\text{C}$  for  $>100$  hours to form  $\text{Nb}_3\text{Sn}$*

# The Internal Sn diffusion process



- ***A Sn rod is inserted in the subelement core***
- ***After the insertion of Sn, only cold deformations are possible***
- ***Subelement size ranges between 20 and 100  $\mu\text{m}$***
- ***A long-duration multistep reaction schedule is required to form  $\text{Nb}_3\text{Sn}$***

# *The Powder-In-Tube method*

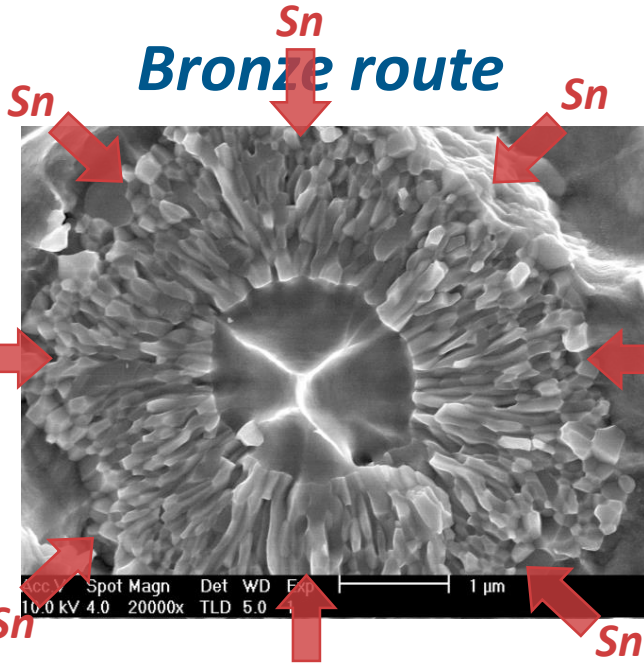


- *$NbSn_2$  and Sn powders are used as Sn source*
- *Subelement size ranges between 20 and 100  $\mu m$*
- *A long-duration multistep reaction schedule is required to form  $Nb_3Sn$*



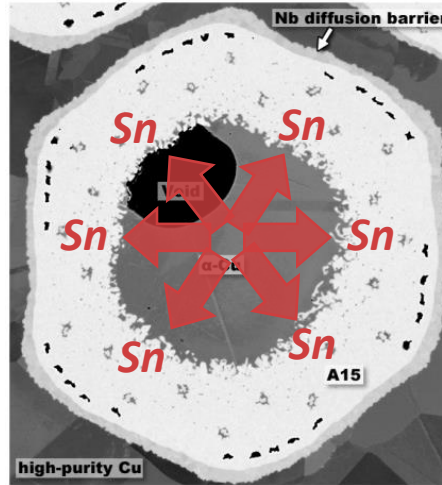
# Microstructure of the A15 phase after reaction

**Bronze route**



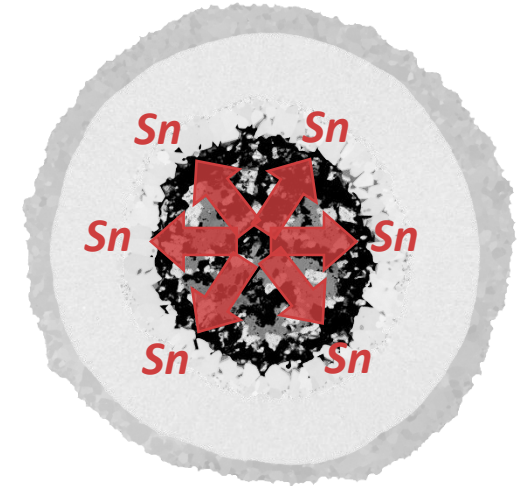
**Filament size ~5 μm**

**Internal Sn**



**Subelement size ~50 μm**

**Powder-In-Tube**



**Filament size ~50 μm**

**High Sn content & appropriate Ta/Ti doping to get high  $B_{c2}$  and thus high in-field  $J_c$**

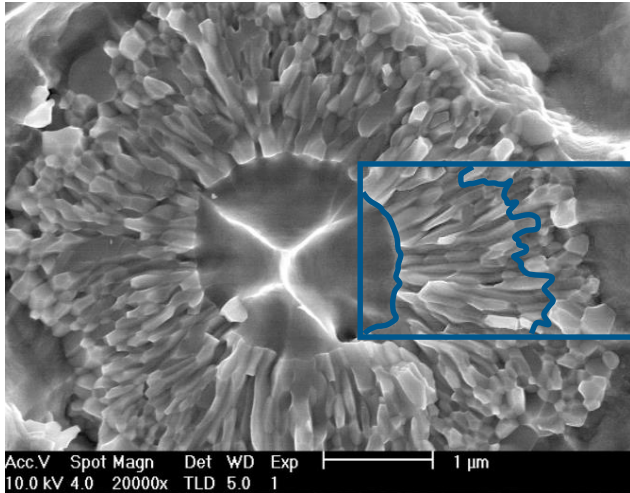
**Also microstructure is directly related to the  $J_c$  performance**

**Grain boundaries act as the main vortex pinning centers**

**Small grain size implies high grain boundary density and thus high  $J_c$**

# Microstructure of the A15 phase after reaction

## Bronze route



Filament size  $\sim 5 \mu\text{m}$

Outer region

Equiaxed grains  $\sim 150 \text{ nm}$

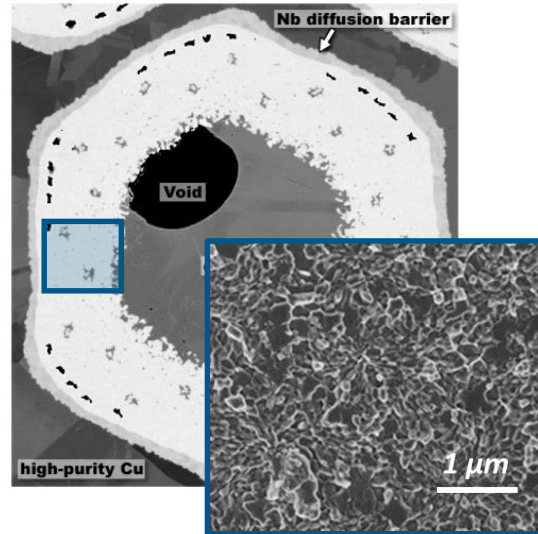
21-25 at.% Sn

Inner region

Columnar grains  $\sim 400 \text{ nm}$

18-21 at.% Sn

## Internal Sn



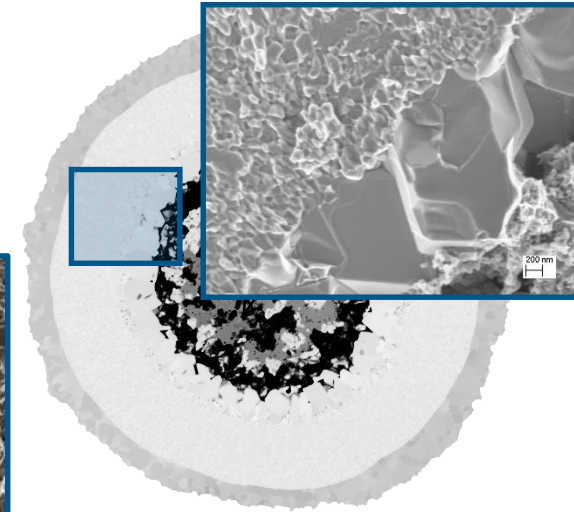
Subelement size  $\sim 50 \mu\text{m}$

Almost everywhere

Fine grains  $\sim 150 \text{ nm}$

24-25 at.% Sn

## Powder-In-Tube



Filament size  $\sim 50 \mu\text{m}$

Outer region

Fine grains  $\sim 150 \text{ nm}$

23-24 at.% Sn

Inner region

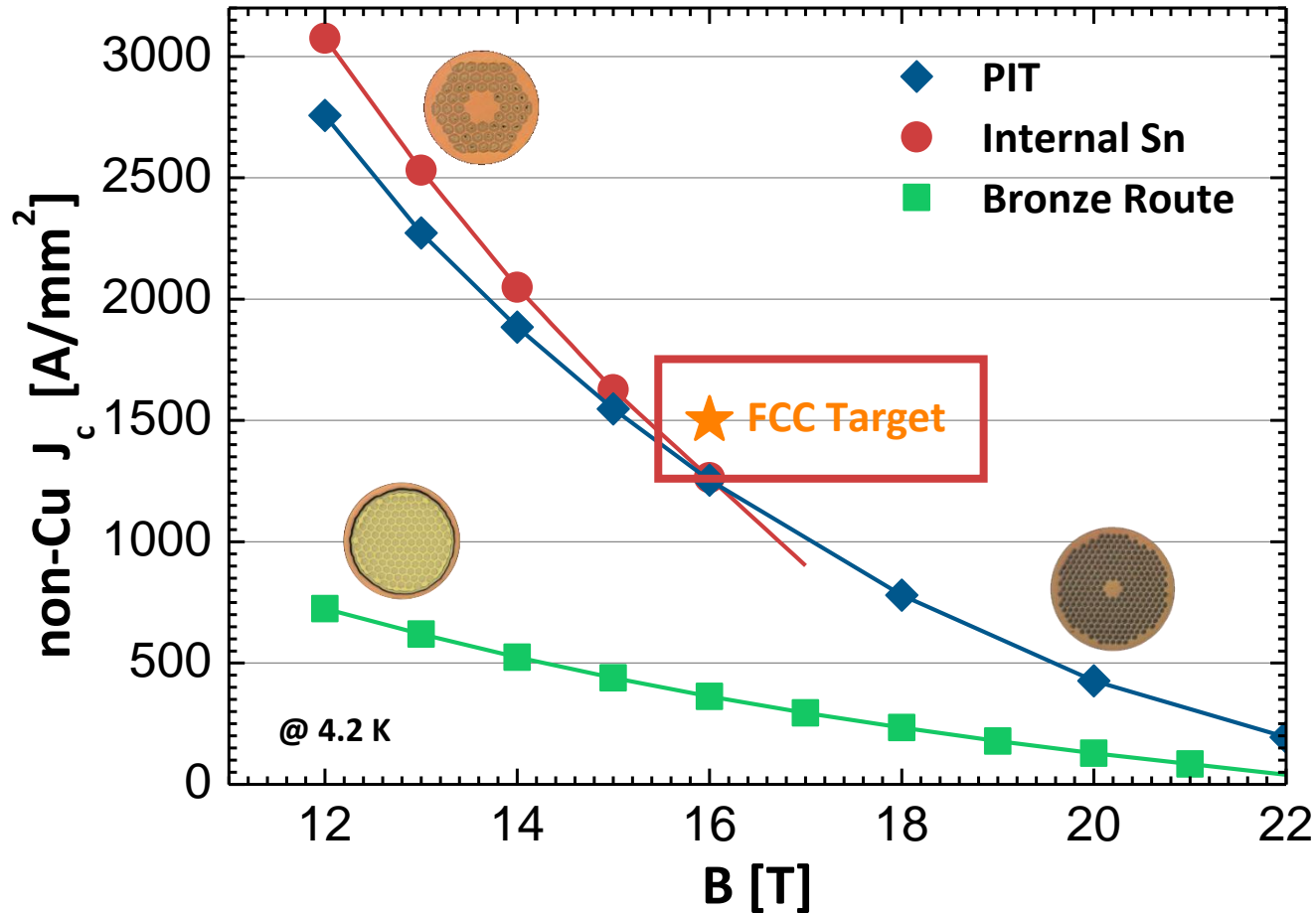
Large grains  $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$

25 at.% Sn



# Critical current density vs. magnetic field

Best performance achieved so far in industrial wires



How do we get the ultimate  $Nb_3Sn$ ?

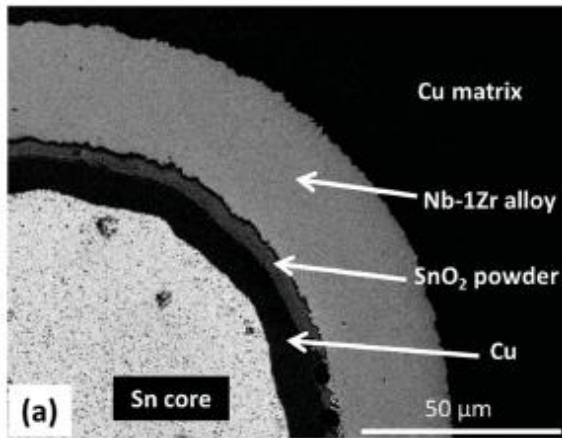
# Internal oxidation and grain refinement in $Nb_3Sn$

@ Ohio State University

Idea to form fine precipitates in Nb to impede the A15 grain growth

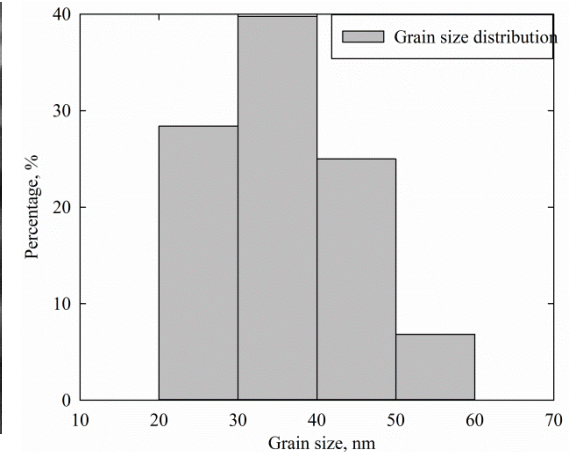
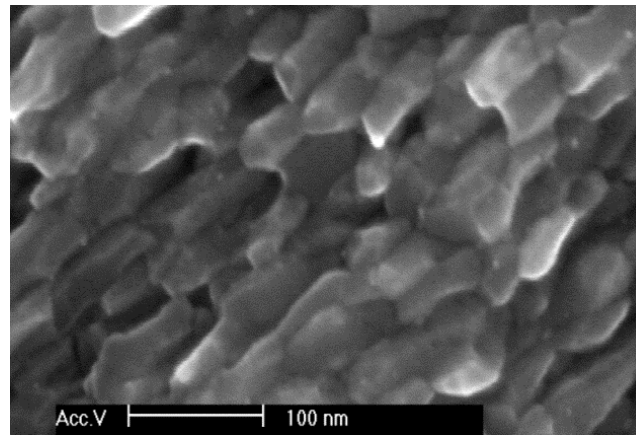
Use of a Nb-Zr alloy: Zr has stronger affinity to oxygen than Nb

Oxygen supply added to the composite: oxidation of Zr and formation of nano- $ZrO_2$



X. Xu et al., *APL* 104 (2014) 082602

X. Xu et al., *Adv. Mat.* 27 (2015) 1346



Average grain size is reduced down to 36 nm

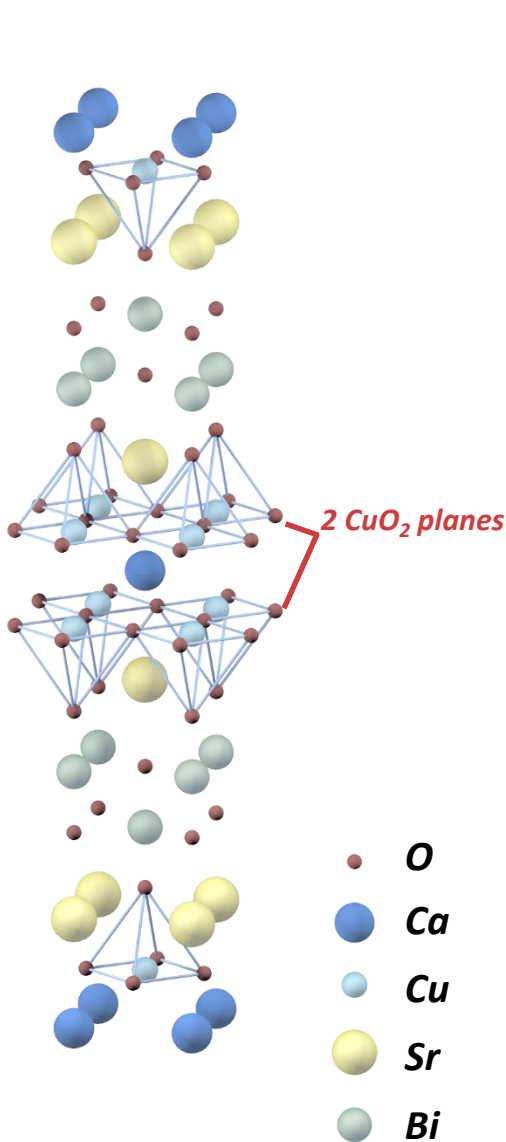
Greatly enhanced pinning in binary  $Nb_3Sn$

Result need to be transferred to Ti- and Ta- alloyed  $Nb_3Sn$

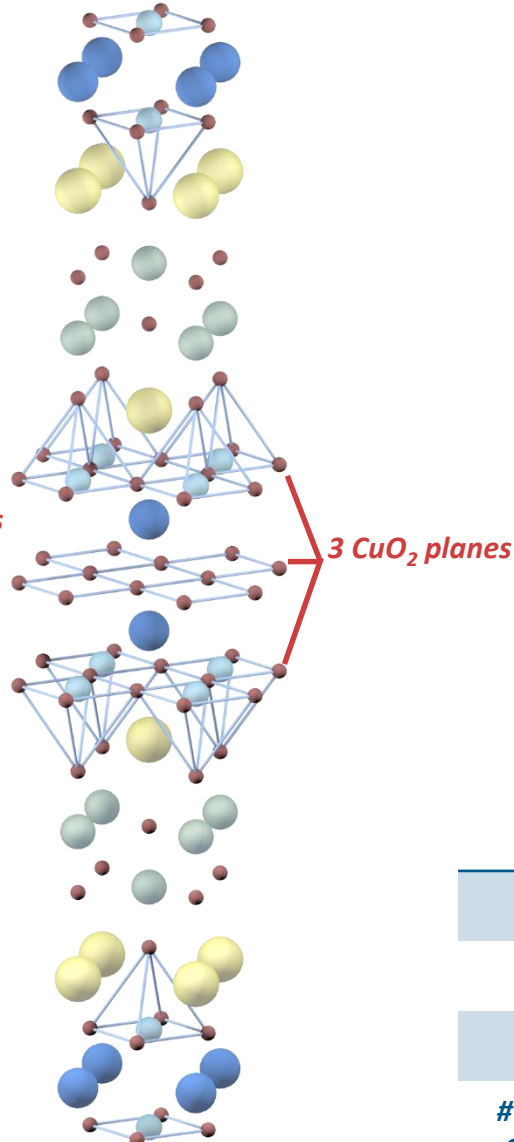
*High Temperature Superconductors are  
different animals ...*



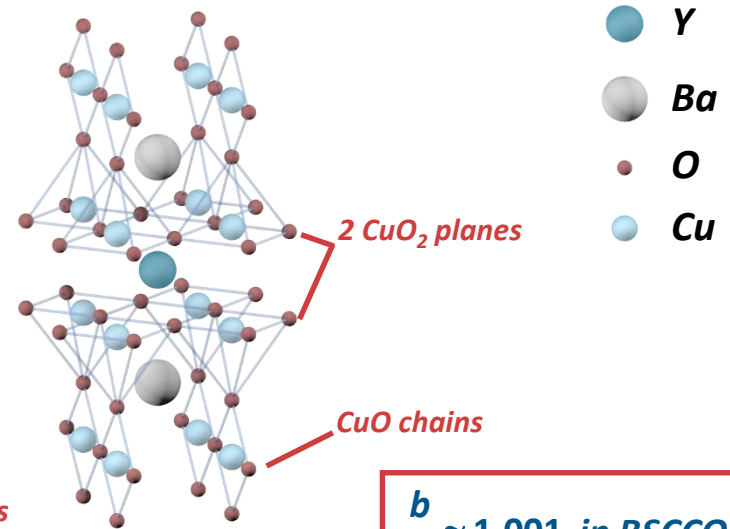
# HTS materials for applications



**Bi2212**  
 $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_{8+x}$



**Bi2223**  
 $\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{10+x}$



**Y123**  
 $\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{7-x}$

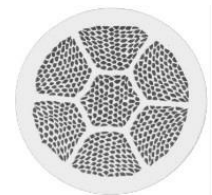
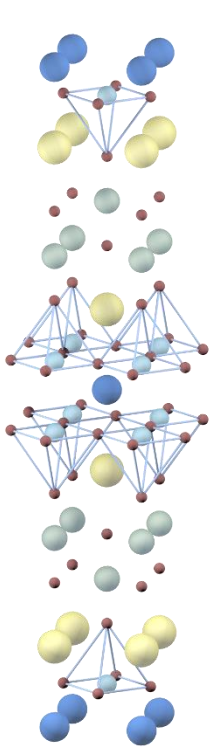
$\frac{b}{a} \approx 1.001$  in BSCCO

$\frac{b}{a} \approx 1.02$  in YBCO

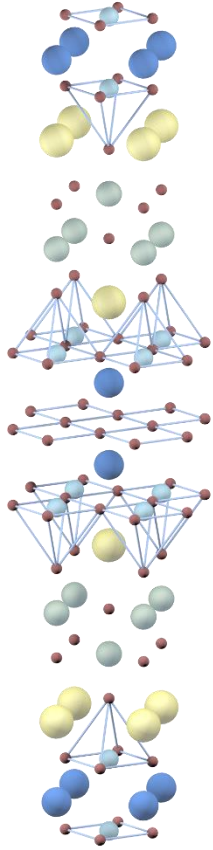
	Bi2212	Bi2223	Y123
$a$ [Å]	5.415	5.413	3.8227
$b$ [Å]	5.421	5.421	3.8872
$c$ [Å]	30.880	37.010	11.680
# of adjacent CuO <sub>2</sub> planes	2	3	2
$T_c$ [K]	91	110	92



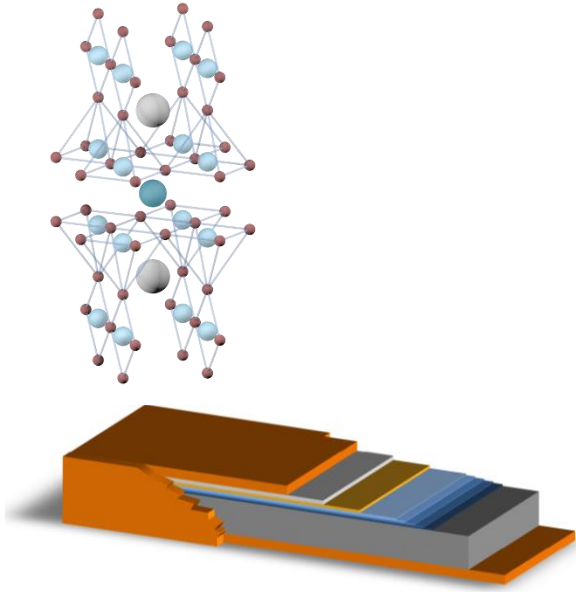
# The evolution to the present wires and tapes



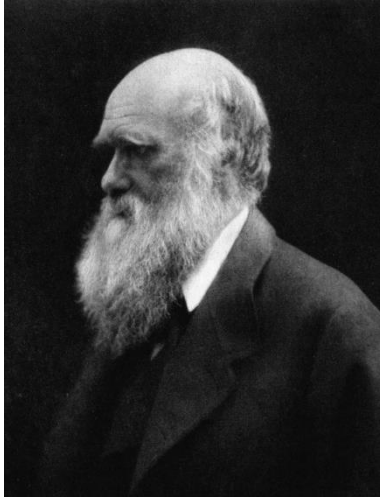
**Bi2212  
Powder-In-Tube wire**



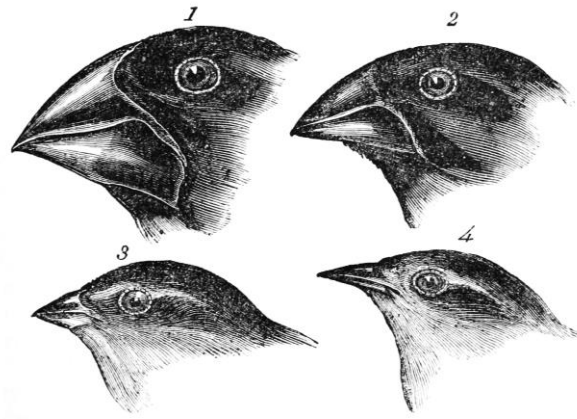
**Bi2223 Powder-In-Tube tape**



**Y123 Coated Conductor**

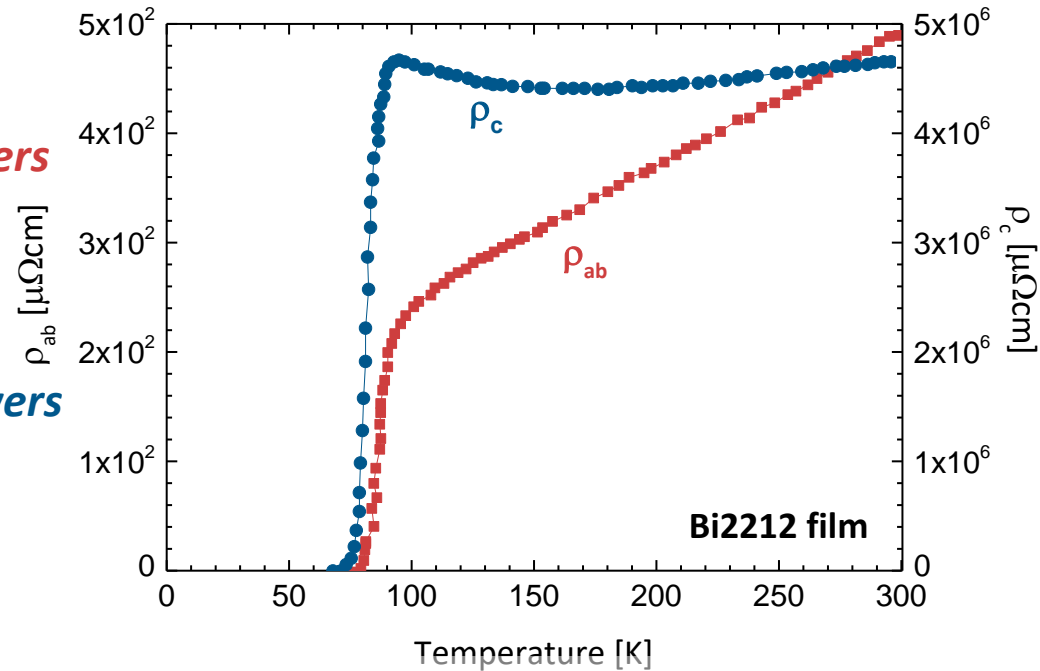
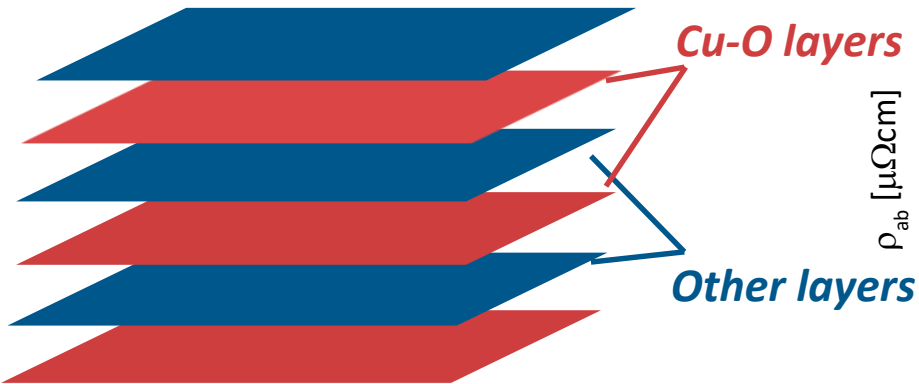


**Darwin's finches**



1. Geospiza magnirostris.  
2. Geospiza fortis.  
3. Geospiza parvula.  
4. Certhidea olivacea.

# Layered structure and Anisotropy



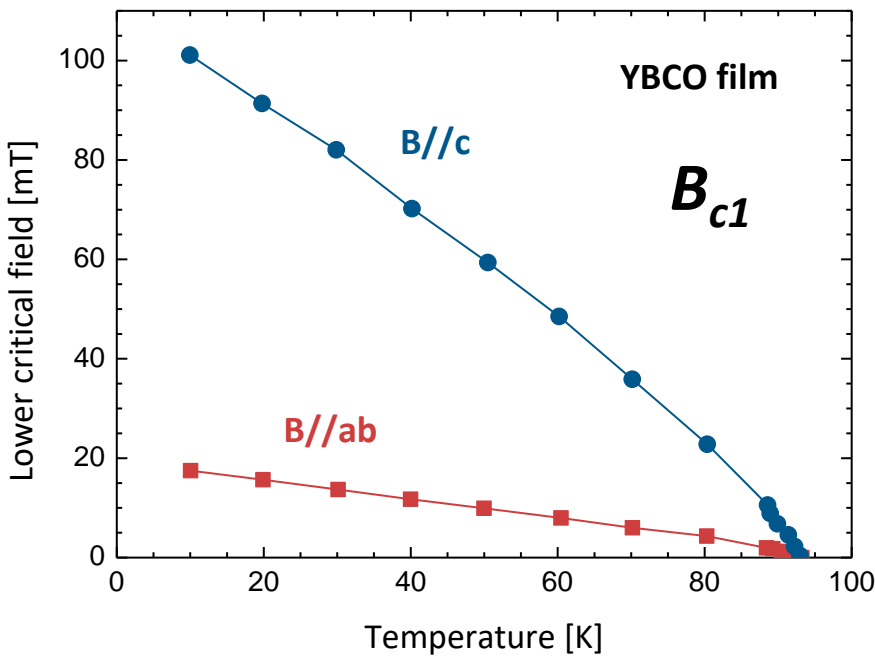
Raffy et al., *Physica C* **460-462** (2007) 851

Charge carriers have effective masses that depend on the crystallographic orientation

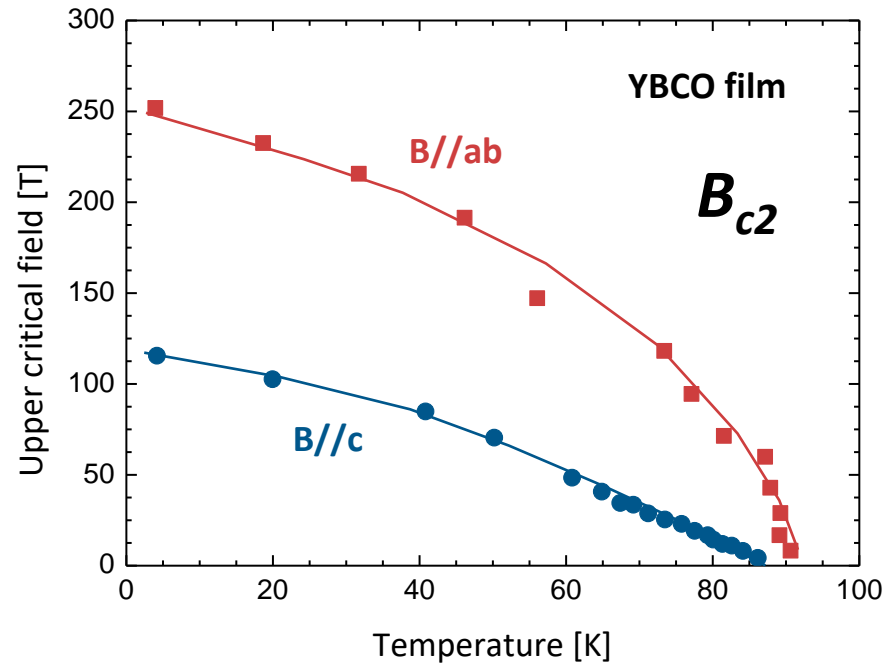
$\frac{m_c}{m_{ab}}$  ranges between 50 and 10'000 in cuprates

The superconductor lengths depend on the carrier mass:  $\xi \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{m}}$  and  $\lambda \propto \sqrt{m}$

# Anisotropy of the critical fields $B_{c1}$ and $B_{c2}$



*Liang et al., PRB 50 (1994) 4212*



*Nagakawa et al., JPCM 10 (1998) 11571*

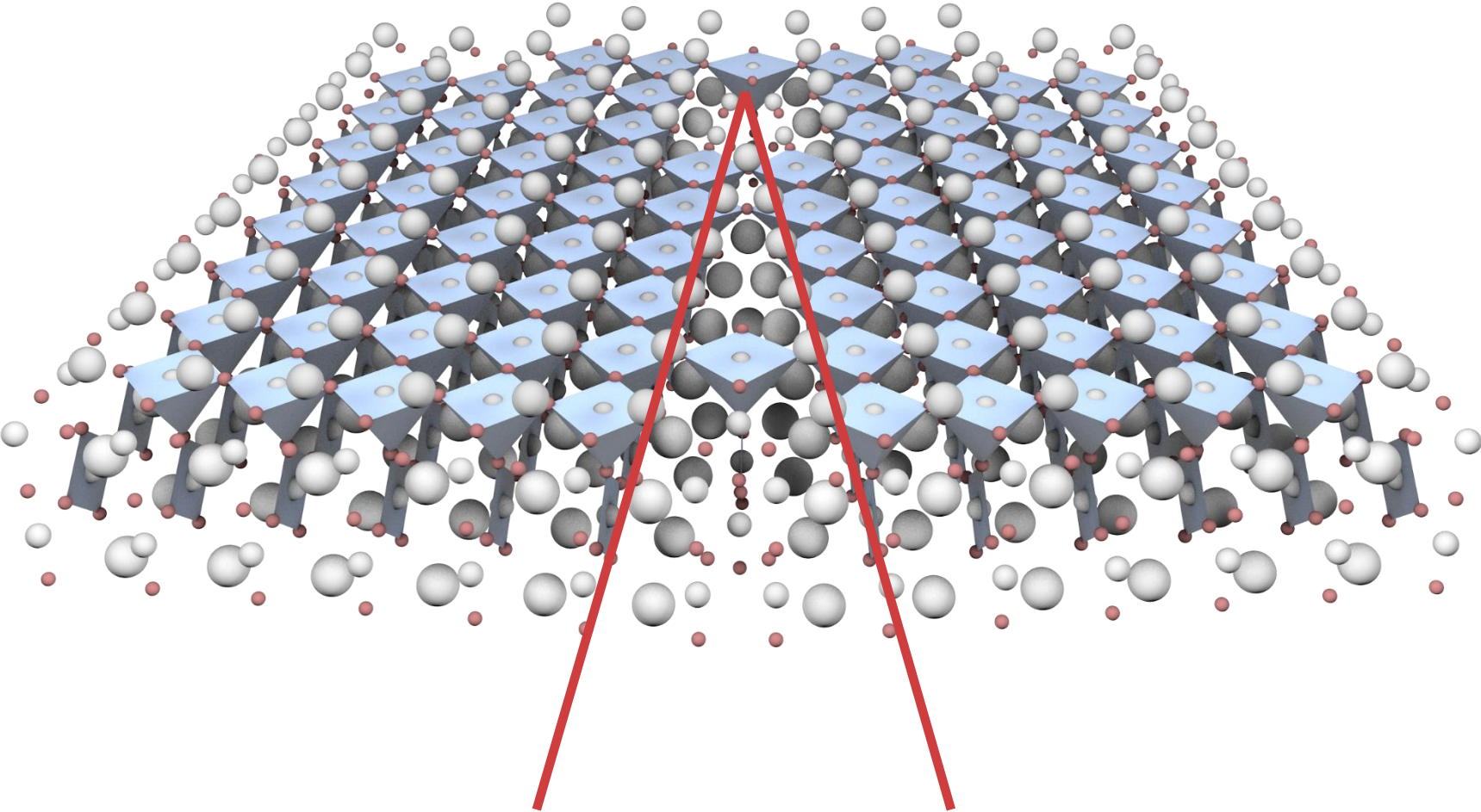
*Sekitani et al., NJP 9 (2007) 47*

## The superconductor anisotropy parameter

$$\gamma = \sqrt{\frac{m_c}{m_{ab}}} = \frac{\lambda_c}{\lambda_{ab}} = \frac{\xi_{ab}}{\xi_c}$$

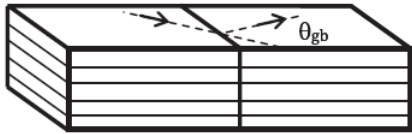
	Bi2212	Bi2223	Y123
$\gamma$	~150	~30	~7

# *Grain Boundaries in HTS*

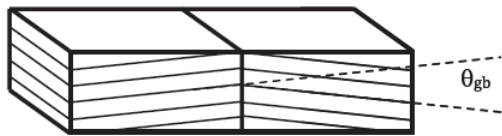




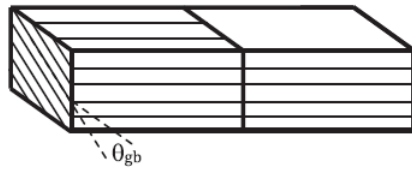
# Grain boundaries in Y123 (YBCO)



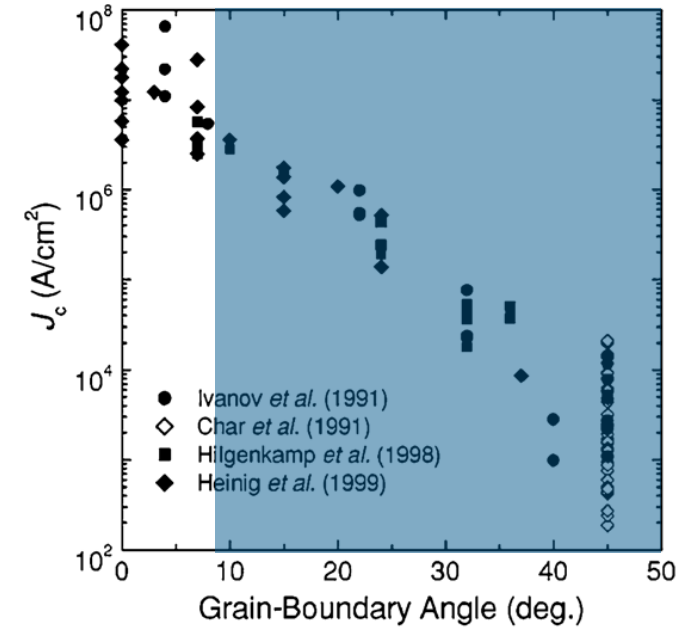
*[001] tilt boundary*



*[100] tilt boundary*



*[100] twist boundary*



*Hilgenkamp and Mannhart, RMP 74 (2002) 485*

**For angles above 8-10°, the  $J_c^{GB}$  is reduced by a factor >100 !!**

**In order to get high  $J_c$  in the conductor, biaxial texturing is needed**

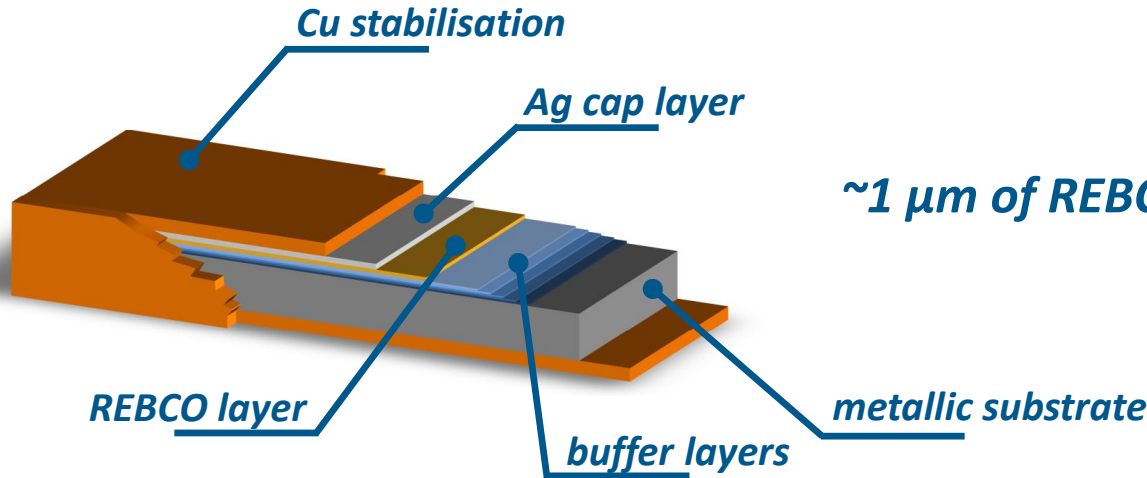
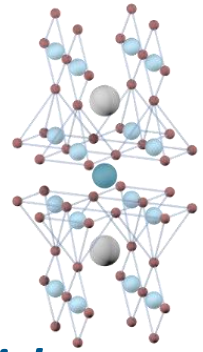
**Alignment of the grains is needed in all crystallographic orientations**

RE = Rare Earth

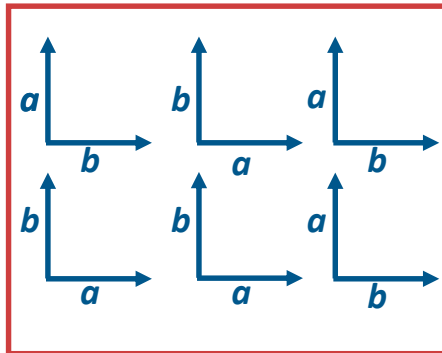
# YBCO (REBCO) coated conductors

Iijima et al., APL 60 (1992) 769

Goyal et al., APL 69 (1996) 1795



~1  $\mu\text{m}$  of REBCO in a ~100  $\mu\text{m}$  thick tape



Looking from above

The template is a metallic substrate coated with a multifunctional oxide barrier

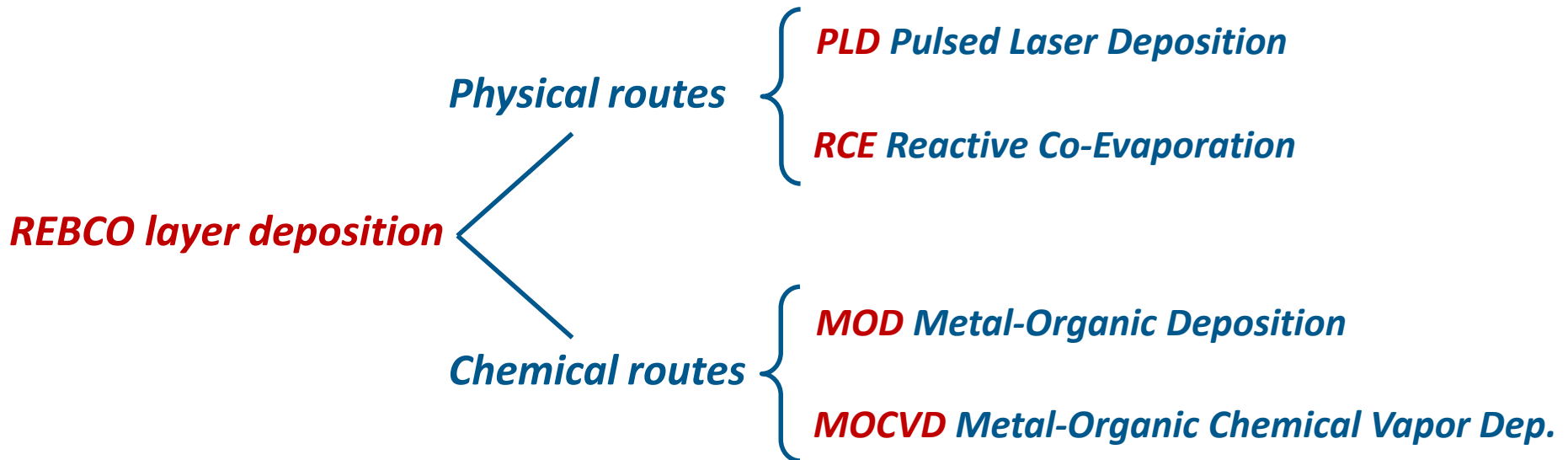
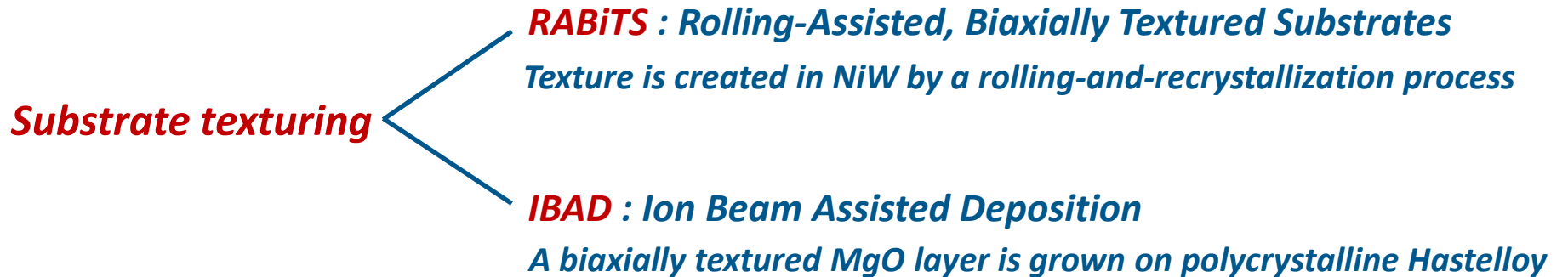
Biaxial texturing – within  $< 3^\circ$  – is obtained

but with some also drawbacks:

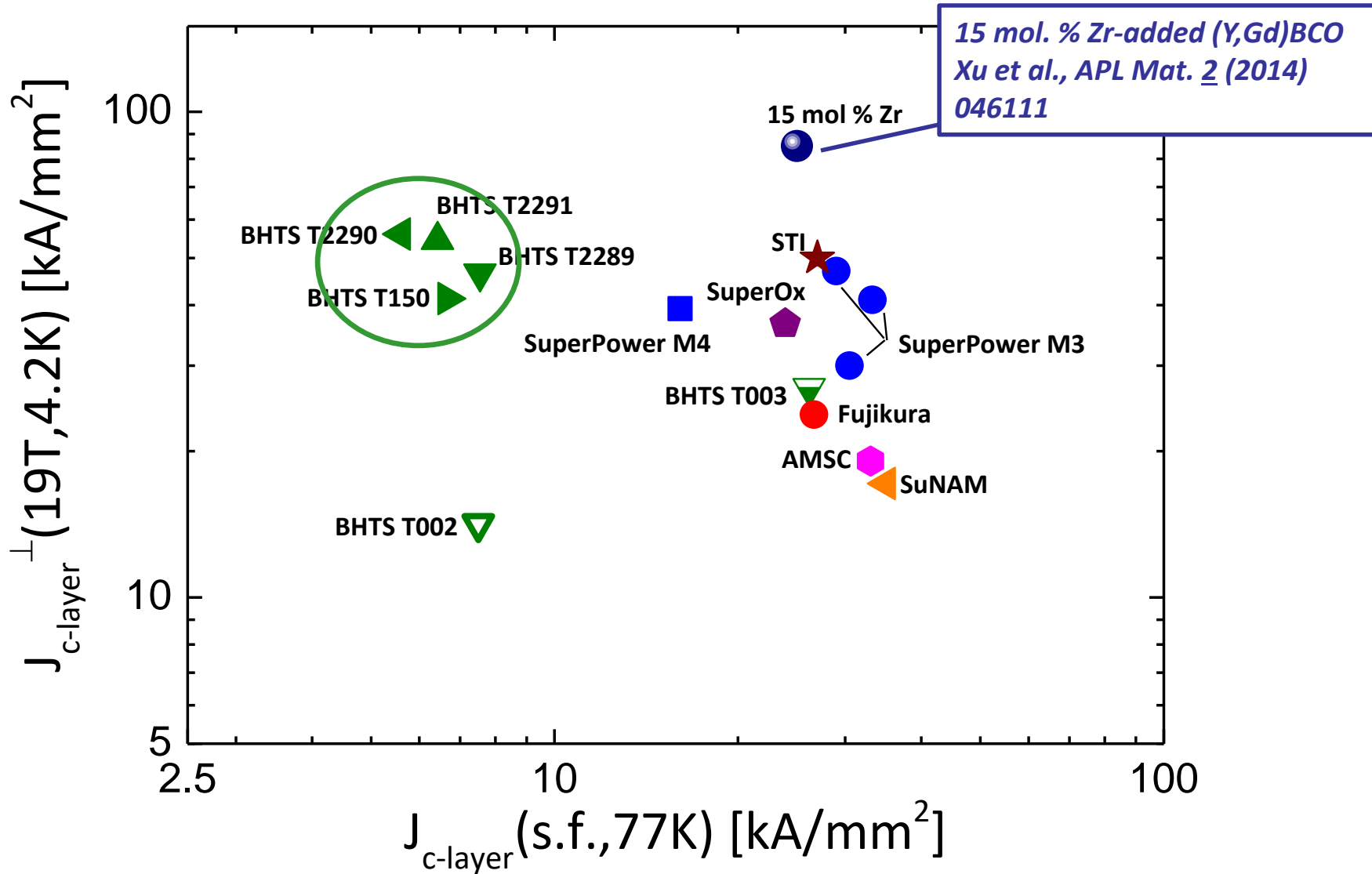
- pronounced anisotropic behaviour
- complex and expensive manufacturing process

# The technology of REBCO coated conductors

Alternative approaches for growing epitaxial REBCO on flexible metallic substrates in km-lengths



# Performance overview: $J_c(s.f.,77K)$ vs. $J_c^\perp(19T,4.2K)$

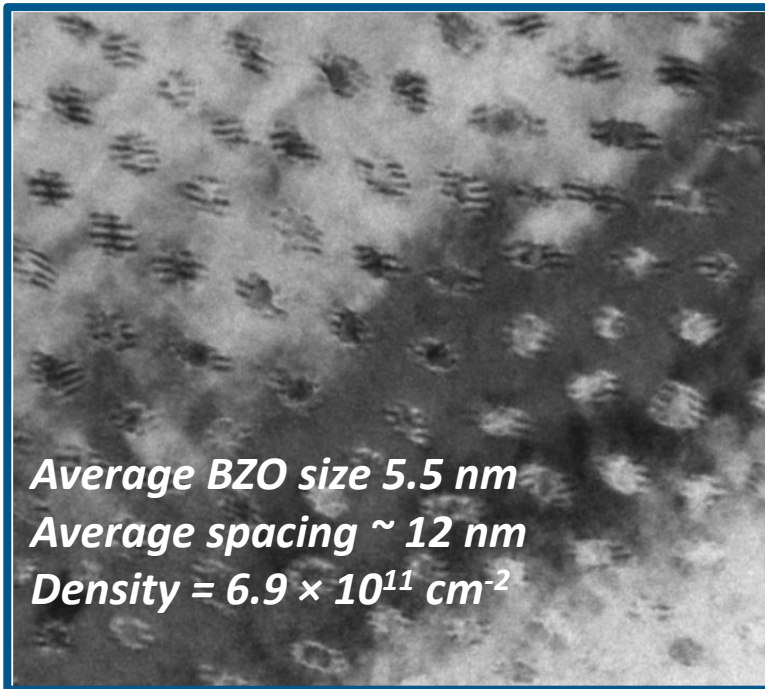




# Artificial pinning: “genetically-modified” REBCO

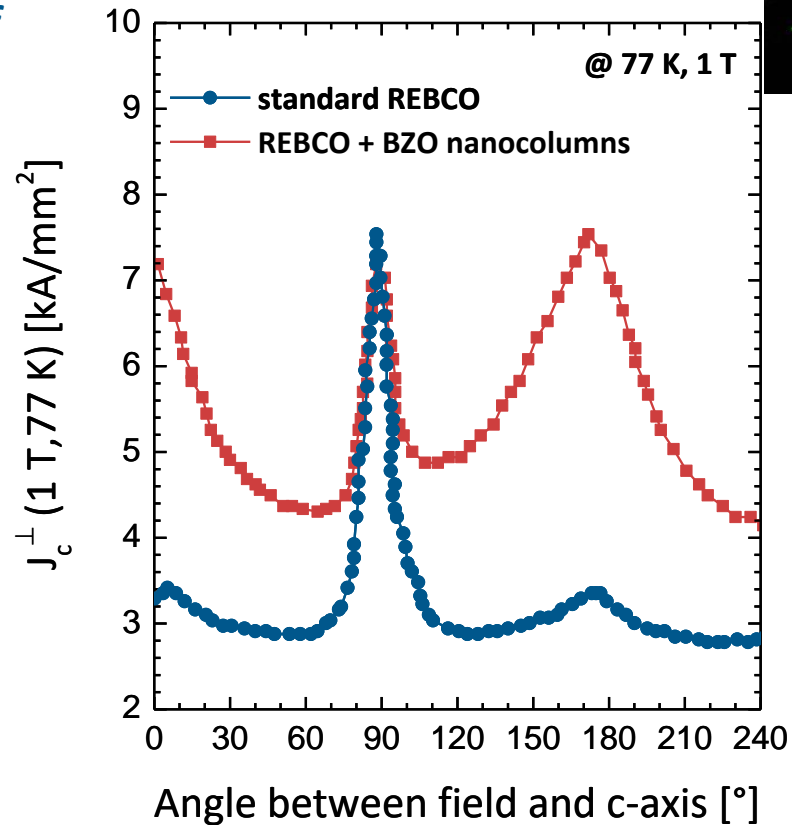
Introduction of artificial nano-defects to control vortex pinning, reduce anisotropy and enhance performance

$BaZrO_3$  (BZO) precipitates are in form of nano-columns oriented along the c-axis



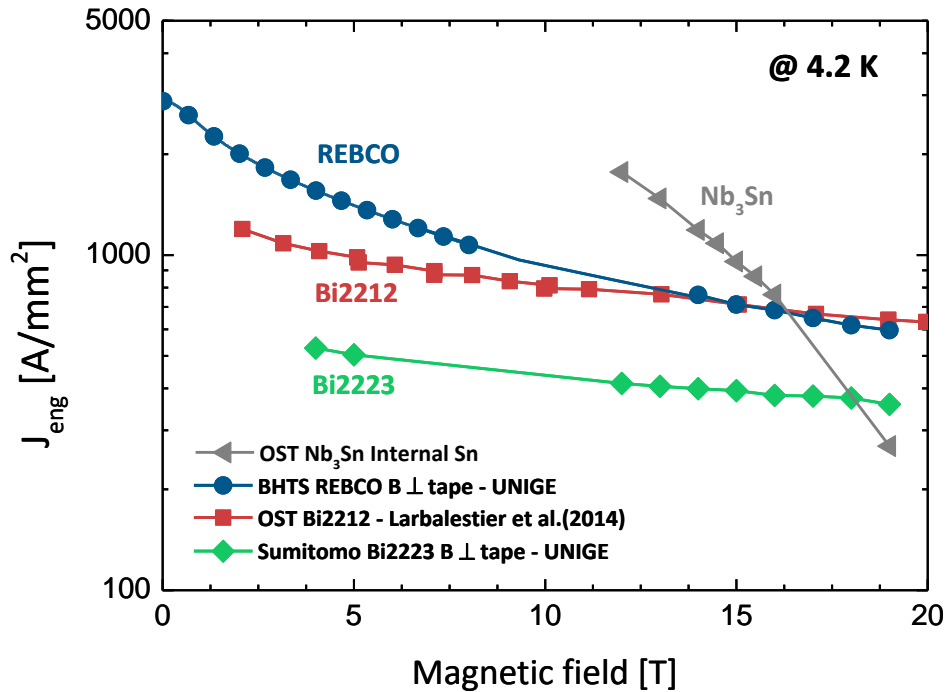
Average BZO size 5.5 nm  
Average spacing  $\sim 12$  nm  
Density =  $6.9 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2}$

Selvamanickam et al., *APL* **106** (2015) 032601

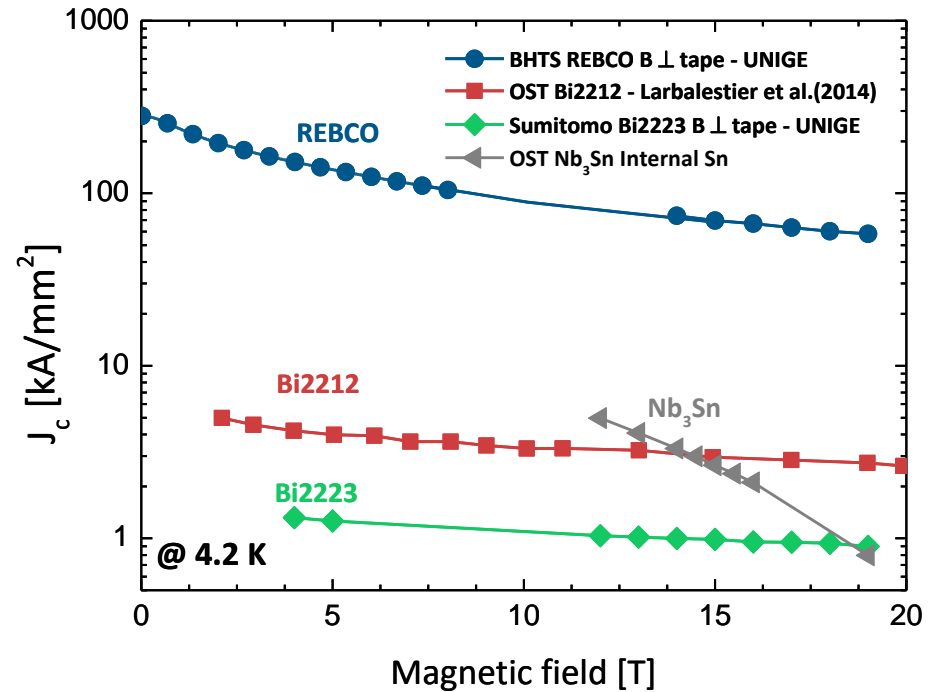


Selvamanickam et al., *IEEE TASC* **21** (2011) 3049

# Engineering vs. superconducting layer performance



**Engineering current density**



**Critical current density**

**REBCO and Bi2223 tapes retain the anisotropic properties of the superconductor**

**Data shown here correspond to the unfavorable orientation wrt the field**

**The in-field properties of Bi2212 wires are fully isotropic**

**Operate at *high current density* is a necessary condition, but it is *not sufficient***

**Other crucial requirements:**

- **Have high tolerance to stress** *Magnetic forces*
- **Be safe in case of magnet quench** *Quench detection, NZPV*
- **Have low magnetization** *Applications to NMR, MRI, HEP magnets*
- **Have a persistent joint technology** *Applications to NMR, MRI*

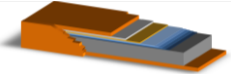


# Conductor contest: $Nb_3Sn$ vs REBCO

$Nb_3Sn$



REBCO



<b>Geometry</b>	<i>round wire</i>	<i>tape</i>
<b>SC fraction</b>	<i>~35%</i>	<i>~1%</i>
<b>In-field Anisotropy</b>	<i>1, Isotropic</i>	<i>~5</i>
<b>Multifilamentary</b>	<i>Yes, twisted</i>	<i>No, single layer</i>
<b>Operation boundaries</b>	<i>2.2 K, 23.5 T *</i> <i>4.2 K, 19 T *</i>	<i>4.2 K, UHF</i> <i>77 K, ~3 T</i>
<b>Mechanical properties</b>	<i>Some issues with transversal loads</i>	<i>Almost OK, but delamination issues</i>
<b>Disadvantages</b>	<i>Still margin to improve the performance?</i> <i>Cost!!</i>	<i>Long lengths under development</i> <i>Cost!!</i>

\* in solenoidal coils

# Practical conductors for accelerator magnets : Why cables ?

Superconducting wires have current capability of few hundred Amps

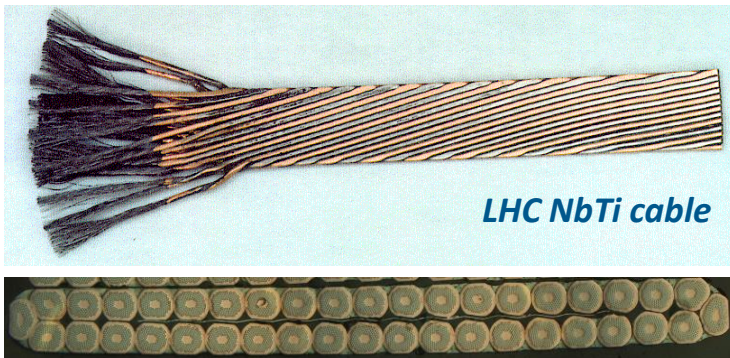
Dipoles and quadrupoles require large operating currents  $\sim 10$  kA

- To keep the inductance low
- To lower the charging voltage
- To ease magnet protection

$$E = \frac{1}{2} LI^2 \quad V = L \frac{I}{t} = \frac{2E}{It}$$

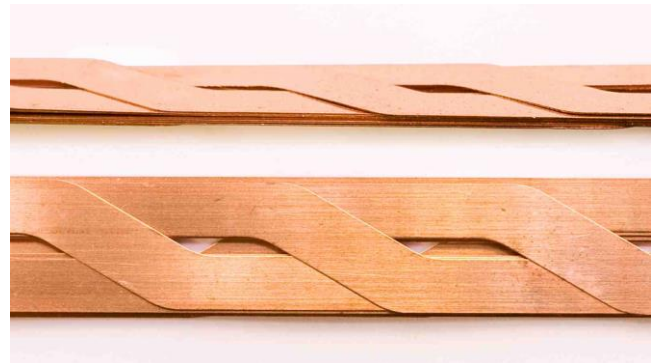
$$V(I_{op} = 250A) = 40 \times V(I_{op} = 10kA)$$

Round wires  $\rightarrow$  Rutherford cables



HL-LHC Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn cable

REBCO tapes  $\rightarrow$  Roebel cables



Both are fully transposed cables. Transposition length and number of wires or tapes can be adapted to the needs of the application

# Summary

## What we have learned

- **How to carry a current without dissipation**  
*Why just being a superconductor is not enough*
- **How to enhance the critical current**  
*Avoid perfection → Defects to pin vortices*
- **How to make a superconducting wire**  
*“classical” metallurgy and Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn*  
*thin film technology and REBCO coated conductors*

***Thank you for the attention !***

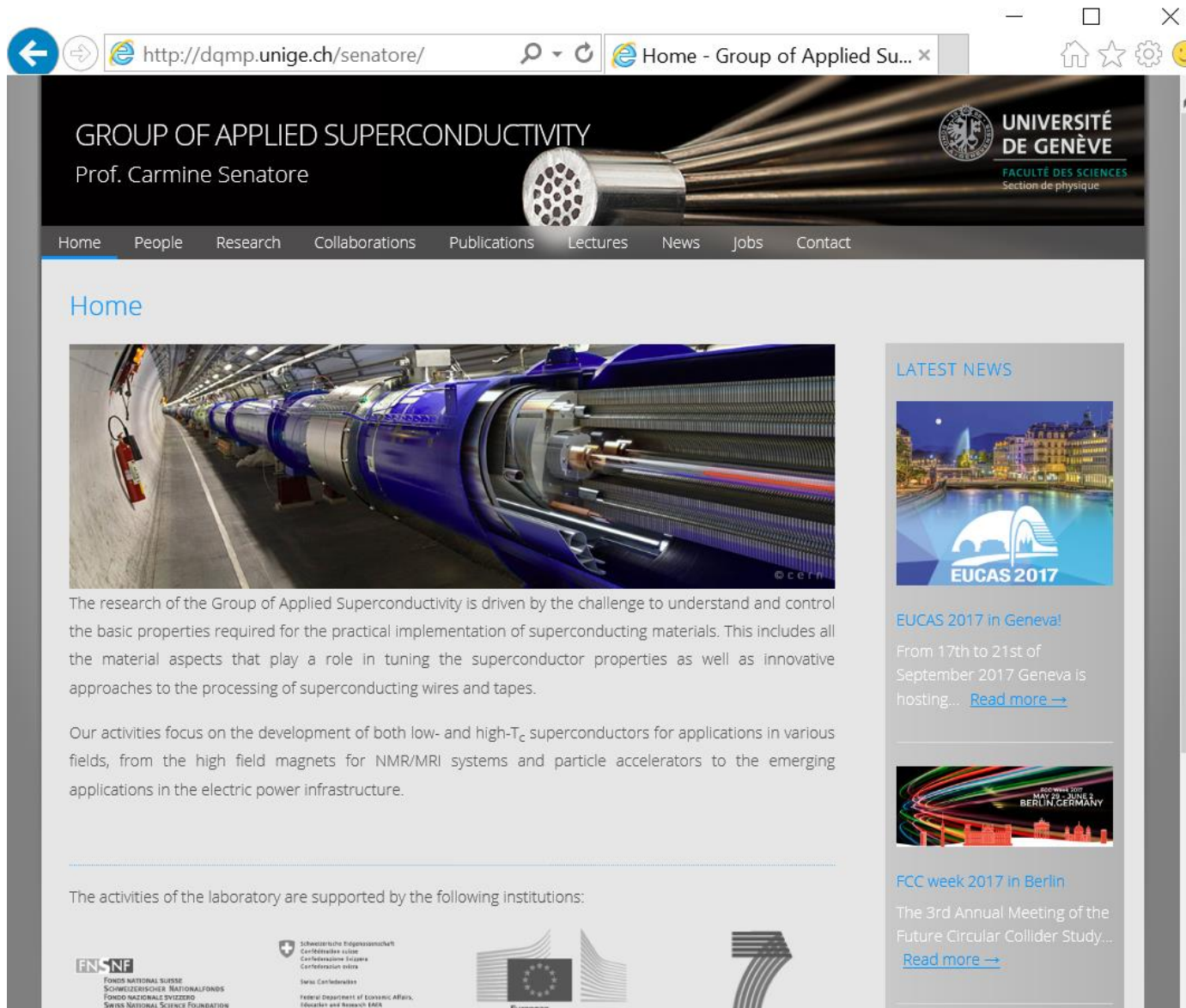
***...time for questions...***

***Carminе SENATORE***

***carminе.senatore@unige.ch***


***http://supra.unige.ch***

If you want to know more about applied superconductivity in Geneva, visit <http://supra.unige.ch>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing <http://dqmp.unige.ch/senatore/>. The page header features the text "GROUP OF APPLIED SUPERCONDUCTIVITY" and "Prof. Carmine Senatore" on the left, and the "UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE" logo and "FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES" on the right. A navigation menu includes "Home", "People", "Research", "Collaborations", "Publications", "Lectures", "News", "Jobs", and "Contact".


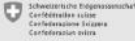


### Home




The research of the Group of Applied Superconductivity is driven by the challenge to understand and control the basic properties required for the practical implementation of superconducting materials. This includes all the material aspects that play a role in tuning the superconductor properties as well as innovative approaches to the processing of superconducting wires and tapes.

Our activities focus on the development of both low- and high- $T_c$  superconductors for applications in various fields, from the high field magnets for NMR/MRI systems and particle accelerators to the emerging applications in the electric power infrastructure.

The activities of the laboratory are supported by the following institutions:

-  FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE / SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS / FONDO NAZIONALE SVIZZERO / SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
-  Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft / Confœderaziun svizra / Confederaziun Svizzera / Confederaziun elvira / Swiss Confederation
-  European
- 


### LATEST NEWS



**EUCAS 2017**

**EUCAS 2017 in Geneva!**

From 17th to 21st of September 2017 Geneva is hosting... [Read more →](#)



**FCC week 2017 in Berlin**

The 3rd Annual Meeting of the Future Circular Collider Study... [Read more →](#)





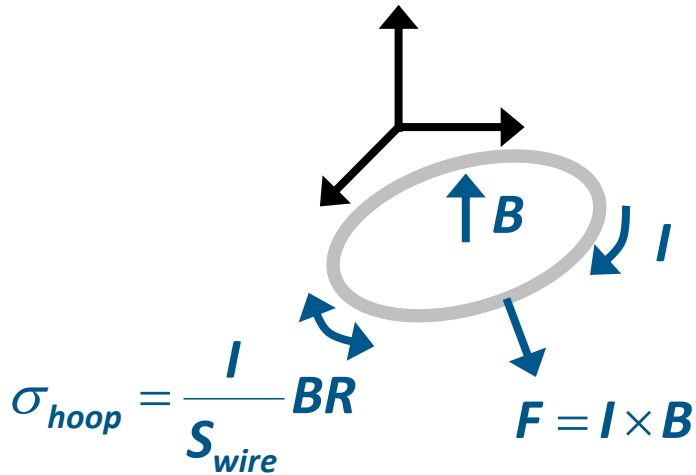


**Operate at *high current density* is a necessary condition, but it is *not sufficient***

**Other crucial requirements:**

- **Have high tolerance to stress** *Magnetic forces*
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- **Have low magnetization** *Applications to NMR, MRI, HEP magnets*
- **Have a persistent joint technology** *Applications to NMR, MRI*

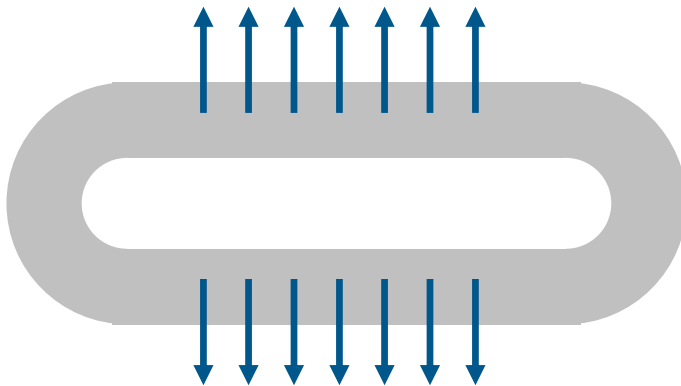
# Magnetic stresses in the winding



Hoop stress levels **above 100 MPa** are common

As an example, the NHMFL 32 T magnet will operate at **400 MPa**

In a real winding adjacent turns press on each other and develop 3-D stresses

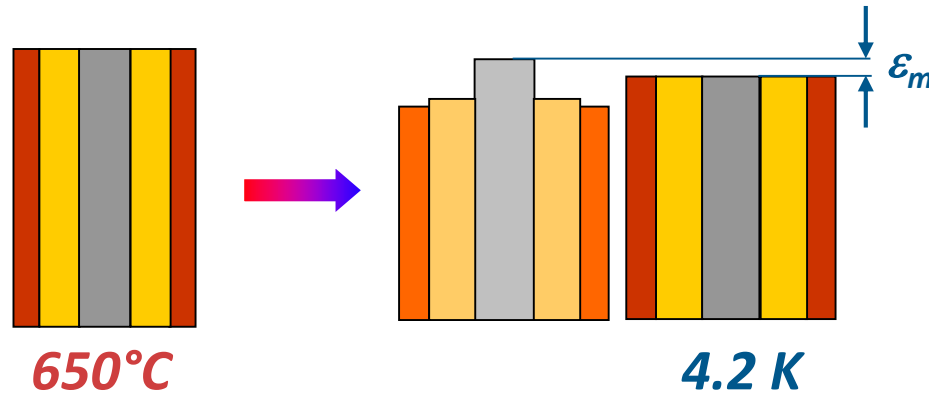


In straight-sided coils such as accelerator magnet, the conductor experiences large transverse forces

$F = 175 \text{ ton/m}$  in a LHC dipole

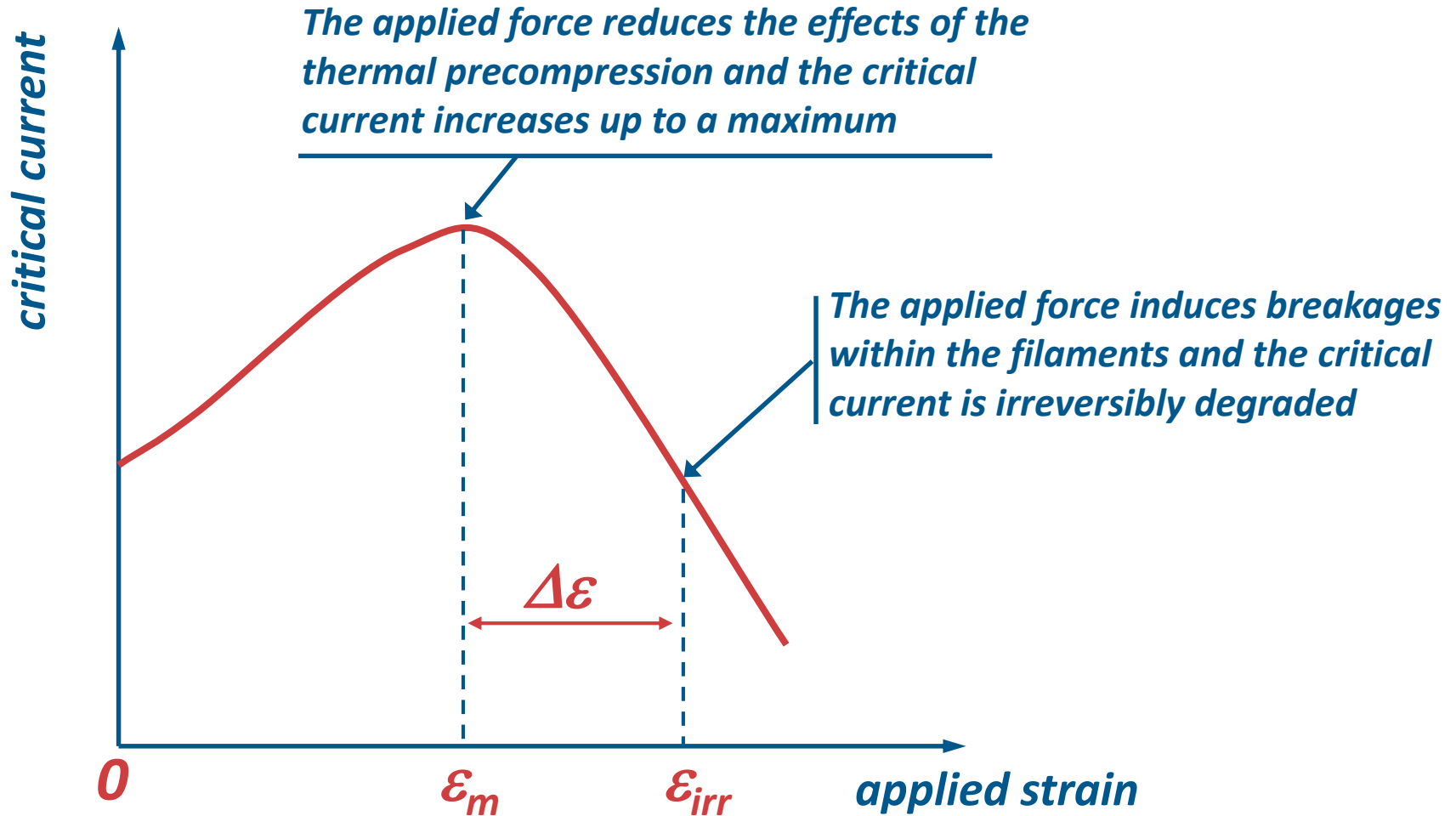
## *And also thermal stresses*

*Mismatch in thermal contraction at the cooldown*



# Strain-induced changes in the critical current

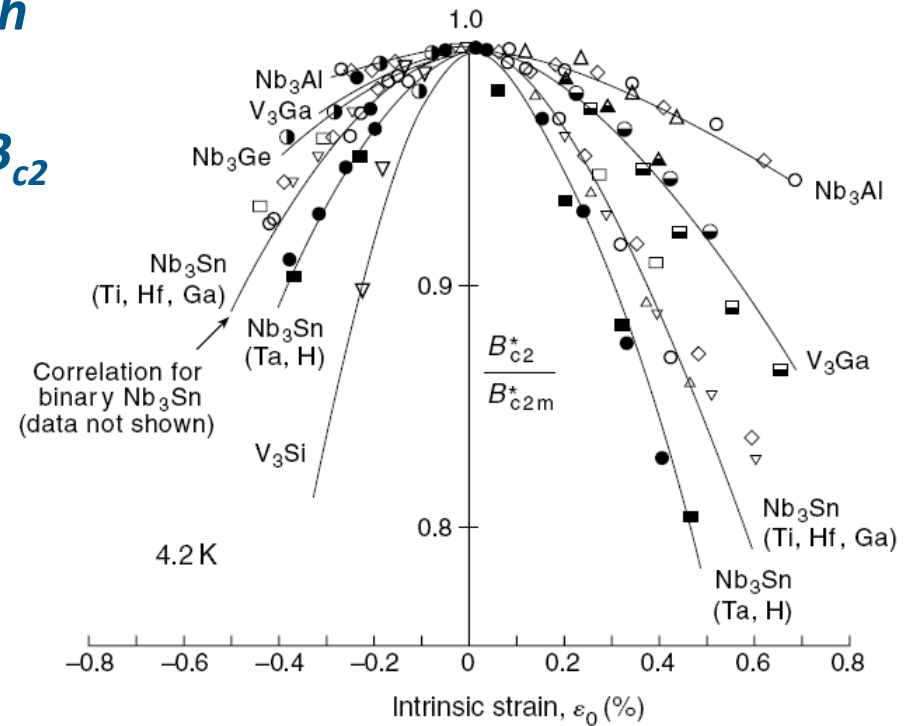
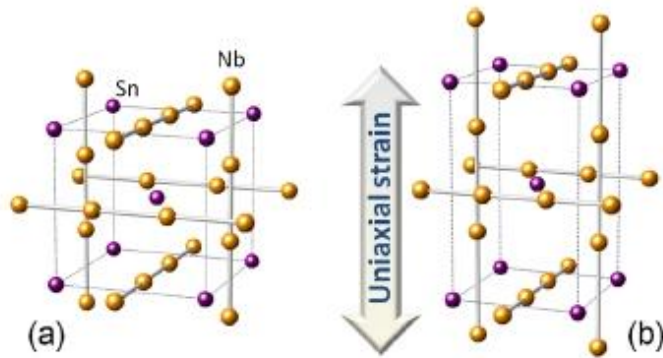
The case of  $Nb_3Sn$



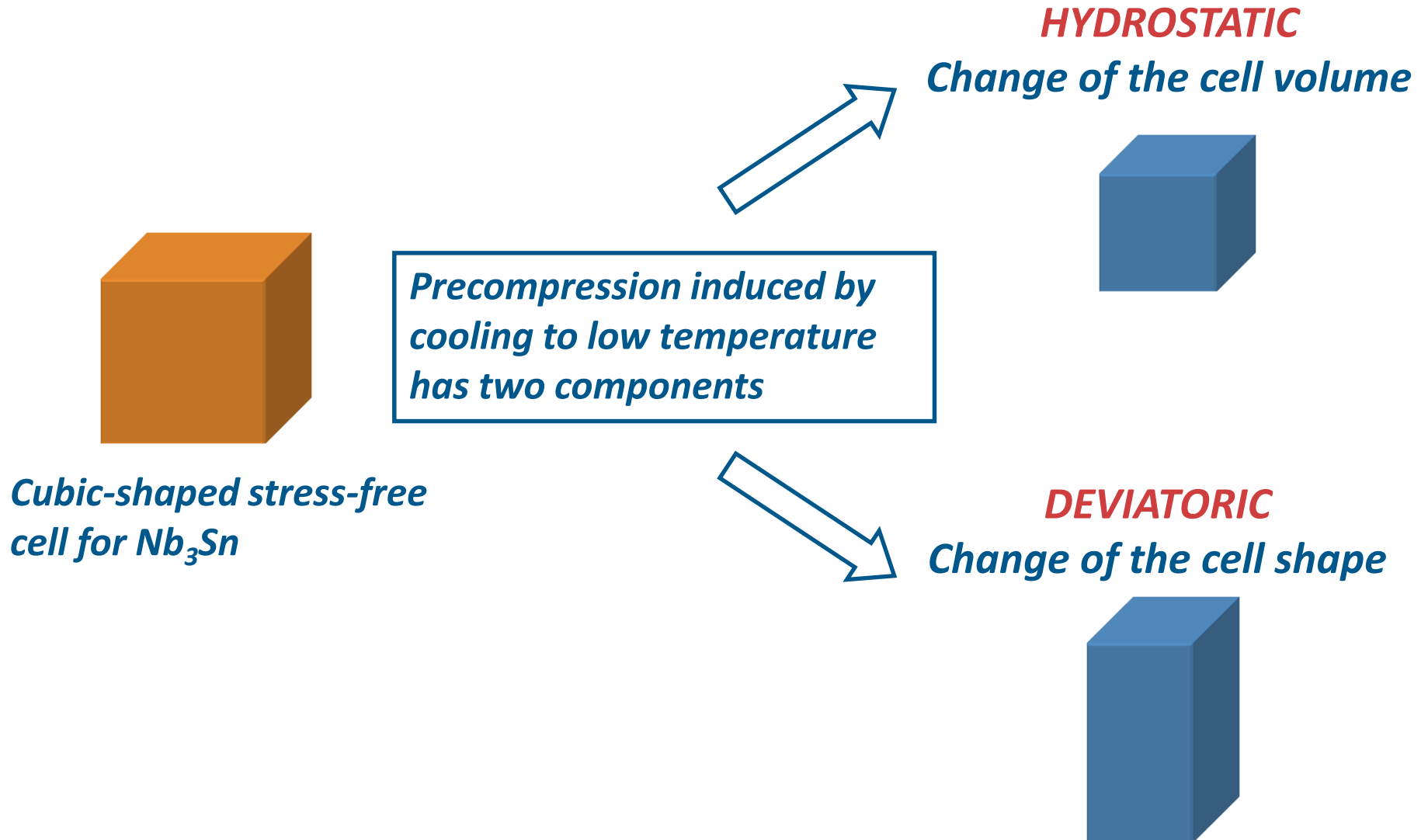
# Reversible strain effects

## Why superconducting properties depend on strain

Under strain the crystal structure deforms and this induces change both in the phonon spectrum and the electronic bands and thus on  $T_c$  and  $B_{c2}$

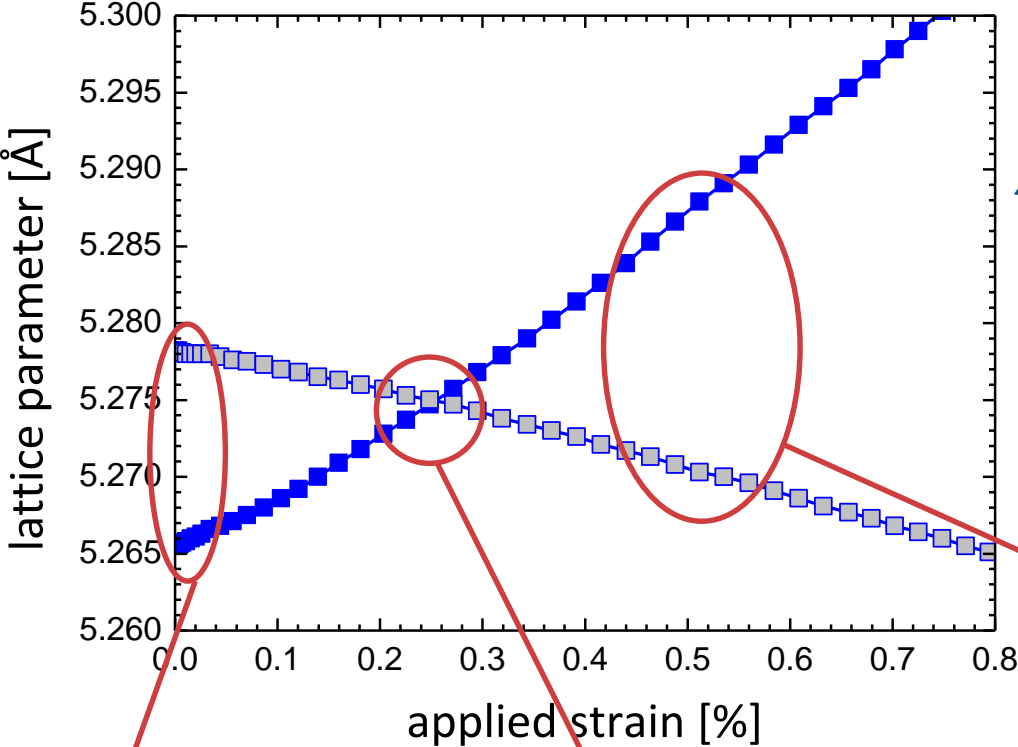


# Reversible strain effects in $Nb_3Sn$ wires



# Reversible strain effects in Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn wires: lattice parameters

Bronze route wire: Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn lattice parameters vs axial strain @ 4.2K



XRD experiments @ ESRF Grenoble

C. Scheuerlein et al., IEEE TAS 19 (2009) 2653

L. Muzzi et al., SUST 25 (2012) 054006

**HIGH APPLIED STRAIN**  
Again Hydrostatic+Deviatoric

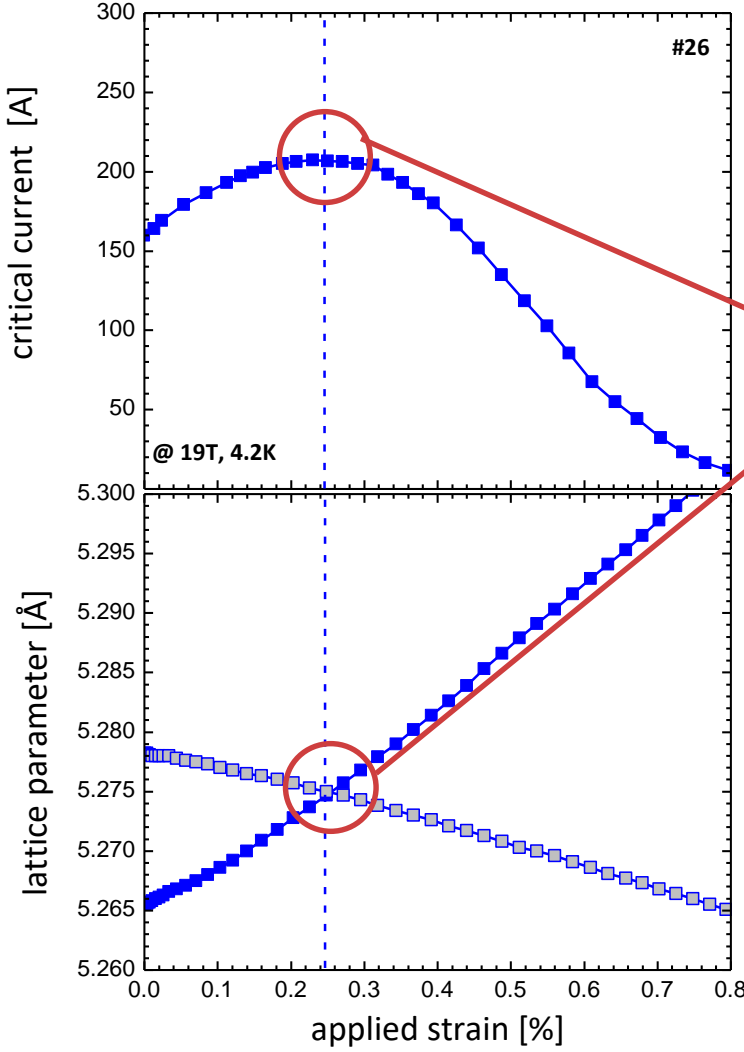
**ZERO APPLIED STRAIN**  
Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn is precompressed  
Hydrostatic+Deviatoric

**CROSSING POINT**  
Cubic cell recovered  
Hydrostatic component still present



# *Lattice parameters and $I_c$ under axial strain*

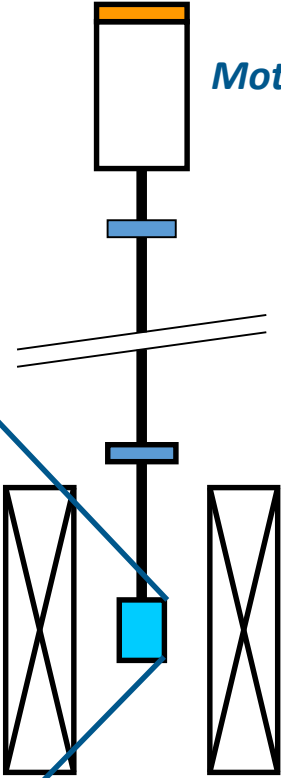
*Bronze Route wire*



***MAXIMUM OF  $I_c$***   
*The maximum of the critical current occurs when the cubic cell is restored*

# How to measure $I_c$ vs. axial strain

## The WASP (Walters Spring) probe



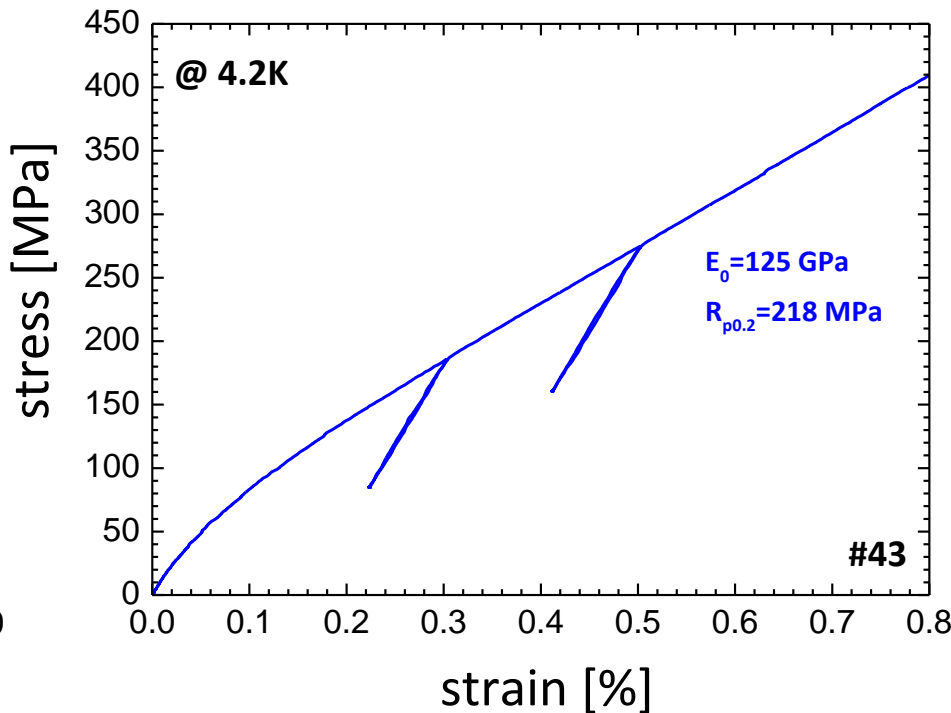
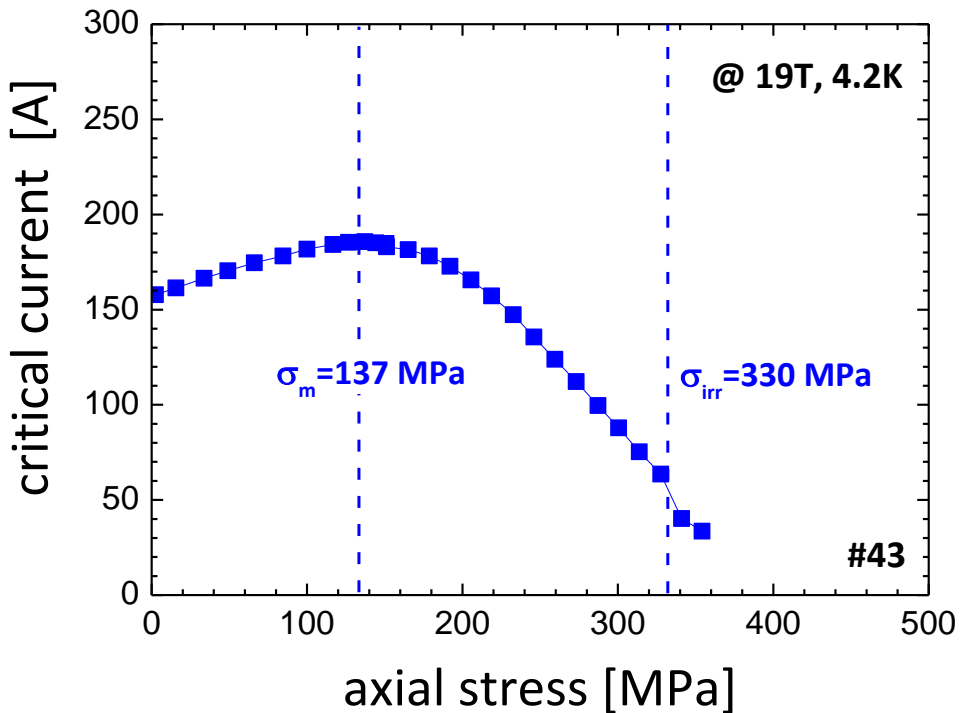
Motor @ room temperature

B. Seeber et al., Rev. Sci. Instr. 76 (2005) 093901

Max current	1000 A
Sample length	1.1 meter
Voltage taps distance	126 mm
Electrical field criterion	0.01 $\mu\text{V}/\text{cm}$
Strain ( $\epsilon$ )	up to $\pm 1.2 \%$

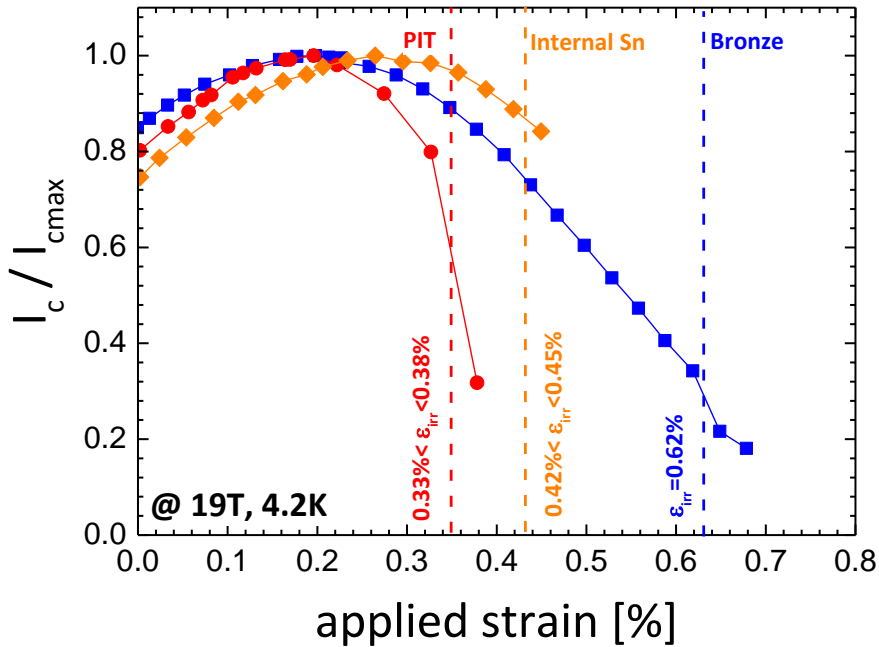
# From $I_c$ vs. strain to $I_c$ vs. stress

Bronze Route wire

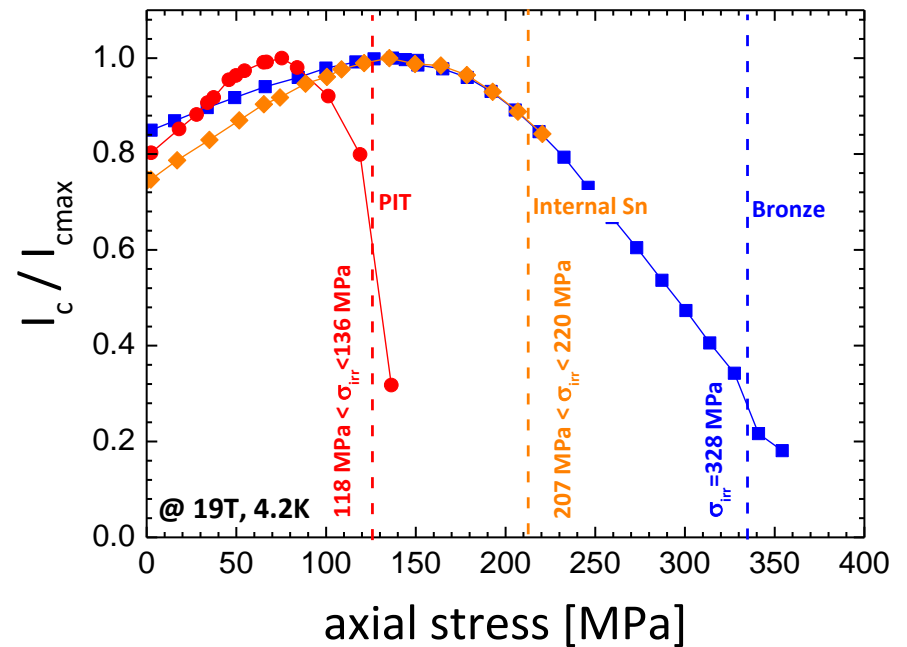


# Bronze Route, Internal Sn and PIT: a comparison

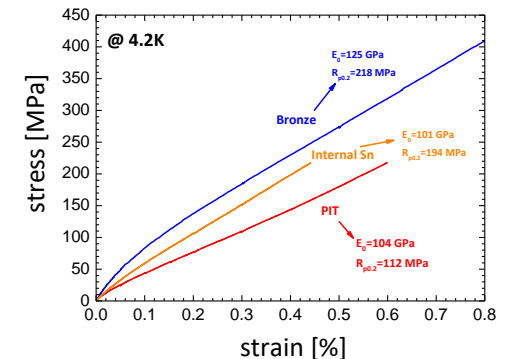
## $I_c$ vs. axial strain



## $I_c$ vs. axial stress



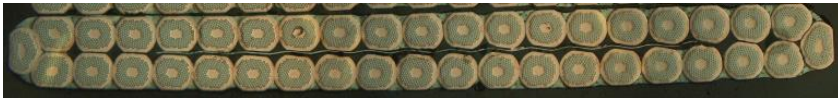
Technology	$\sigma_{irr}$
Bronze Route	330 MPa
Internal Sn	210 MPa
Powder-In-Tube	120 MPa



# Degradation upon transverse loads

High field dipoles based on high  $J_c$   $Nb_3Sn$  Rutherford cables require **coil pre-stresses** larger than **100 MPa**, with peak stress of  **$\sim 200$  MPa** at operation

Are the  $Nb_3Sn$  wires in the cable able to withstand such a high stress level? Which degradation is tolerable?

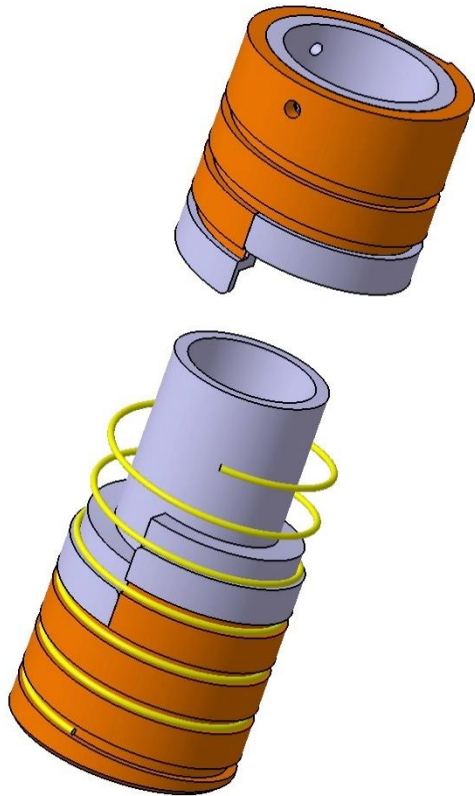


$Nb_3Sn$  Rutherford cable for HL-LHC, 40 strands

- $Nb_3Sn$  wires are deformed during cabling
- Cables are braided with glass fiber
- The winding is impregnated with resin

Is it possible to extrapolate the **behaviour of the cable** from a **single wire experiment**?

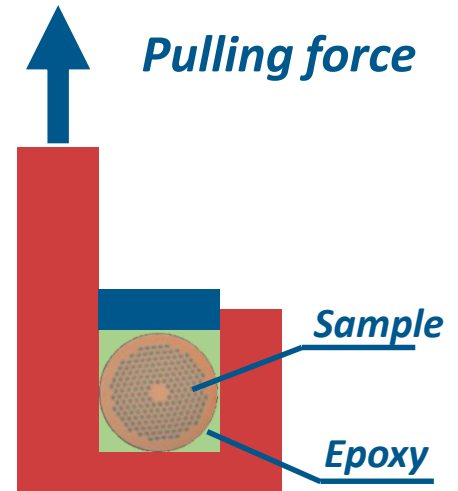
# The WASP concept for $I_c$ vs. transverse stress



3 groove widths

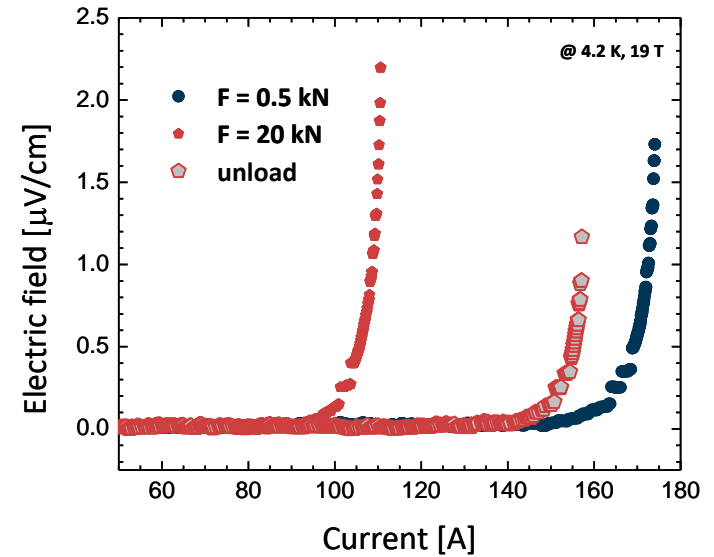
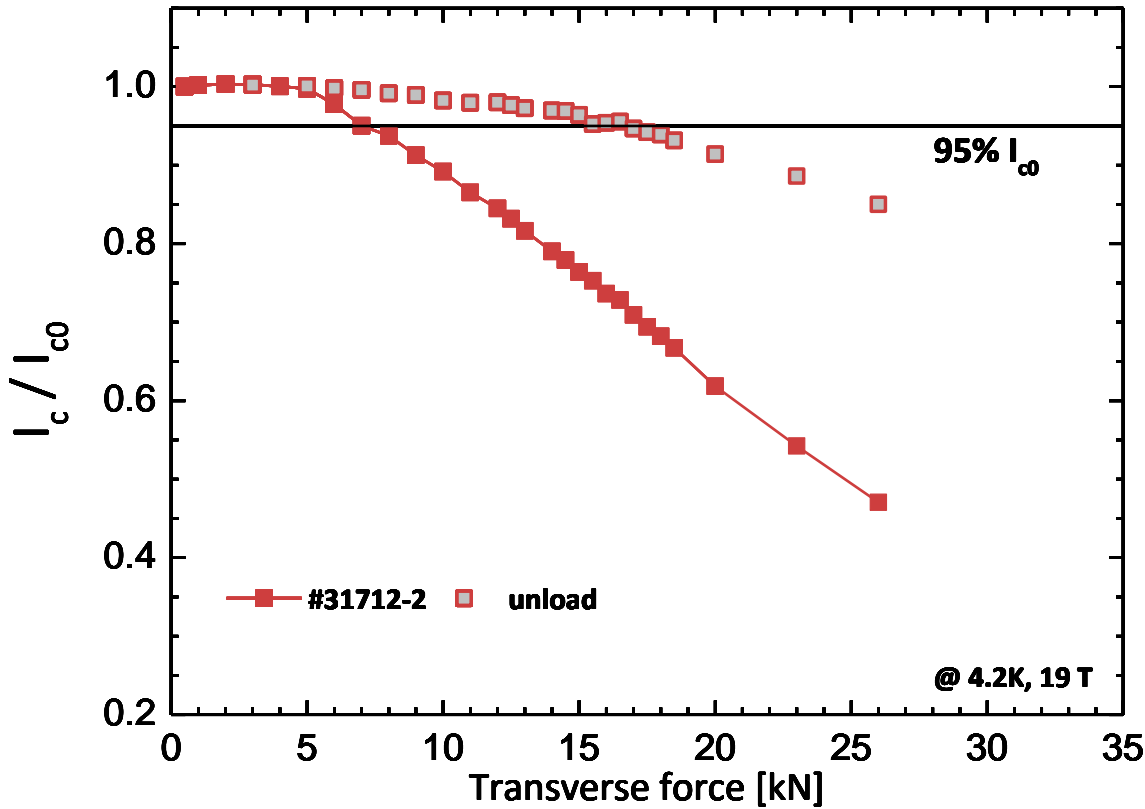
- 1.30 mm
- 1.15 mm
- 1.00 mm

4-WALL + impregnation



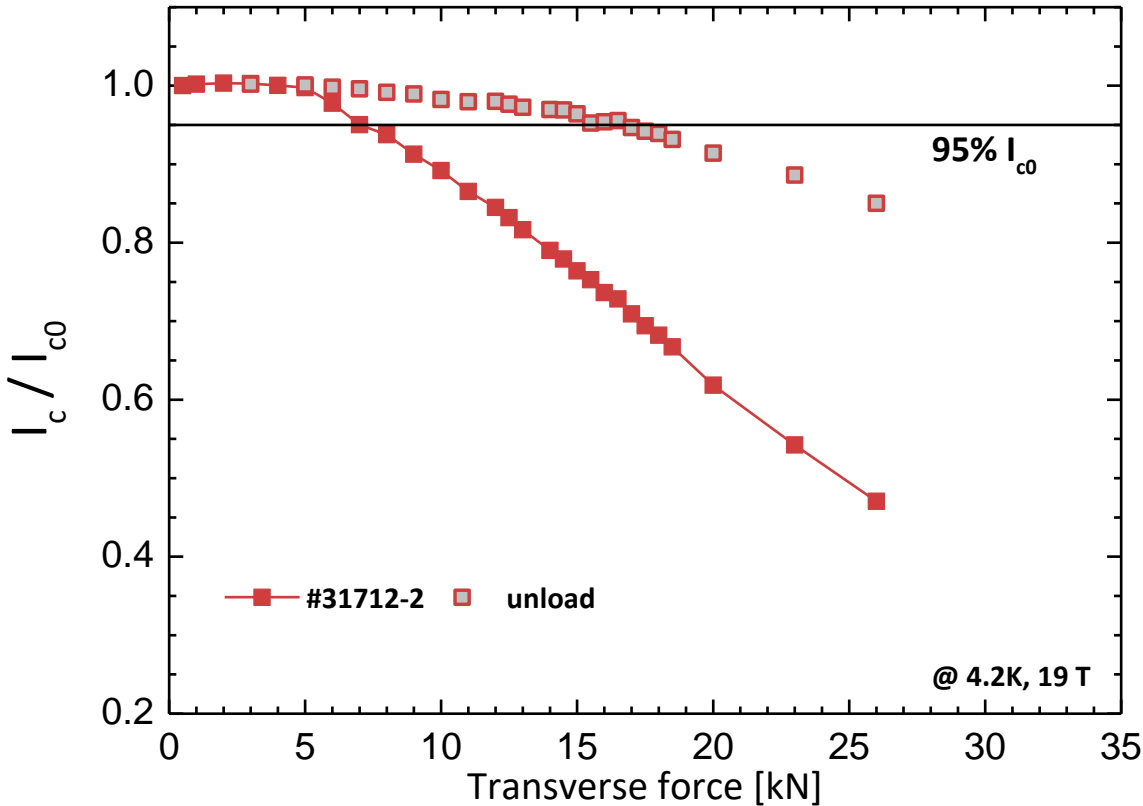
Wire impregnated with epoxy  
applied stress uniformly  
distributed

# How the measurement works



Wire ID	Diameter [mm]	# of filaments	Filament size/shape	Cu/nonCu	Non-Cu $J_c(12\text{T}, 4.2\text{K})$ [ $\text{A}/\text{mm}^2$ ]
#31712 #14310 <i>Fresca2</i>	1.0	192	~50 $\mu\text{m}$ round	1.22	2450

# How the measurement works



The irreversible limit is defined at the force level leading to a 95% recovery of the initial  $I_c$  after unload

Here

$$F_{irr} = 16 \text{ kN}$$

The corresponding irreversible stress limit is

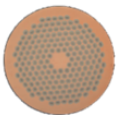
$$\sigma_{irr} = 110 \text{ MPa}$$

where

$$\text{Stress} = \frac{\text{Force}}{\text{groove length} \times \text{groove width}}$$

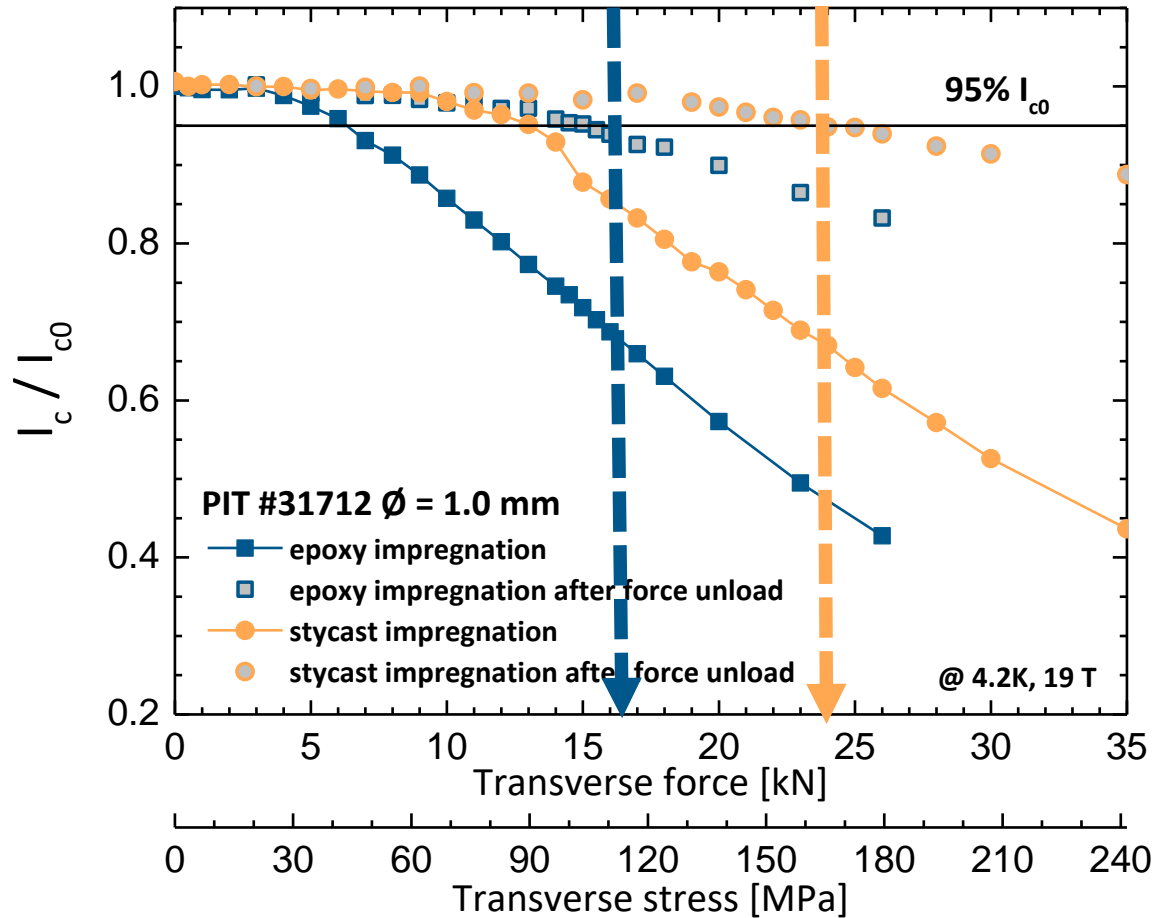


Wire ID	Diameter [mm]	# of filaments	Filament size/shape	Cu/nonCu	Non-Cu $J_c(12T, 4.2K)$ [A/mm <sup>2</sup> ]
#31712 #14310 <i>Fresca2</i>	1.0	192	~50 $\mu\text{m}$ round	1.22	2450



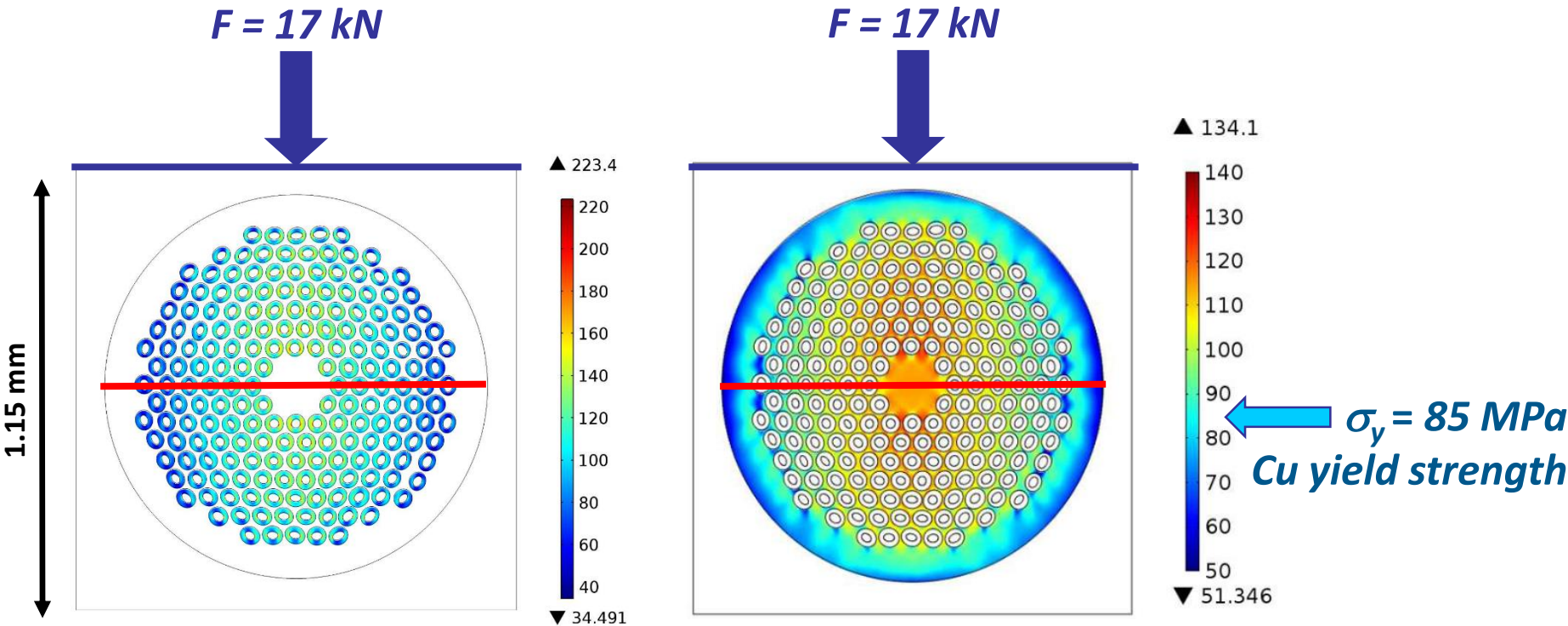


# $I_c$ vs. transverse stress: epoxy vs. stycast



*The change of resin, from epoxy to stycast, leads to an increase of  $\sigma_{irr}$  by > 50 MPa  
The result is comparable to the value found with epoxy + glass fiber sleeve*

# FEM: stress redistribution in the wire

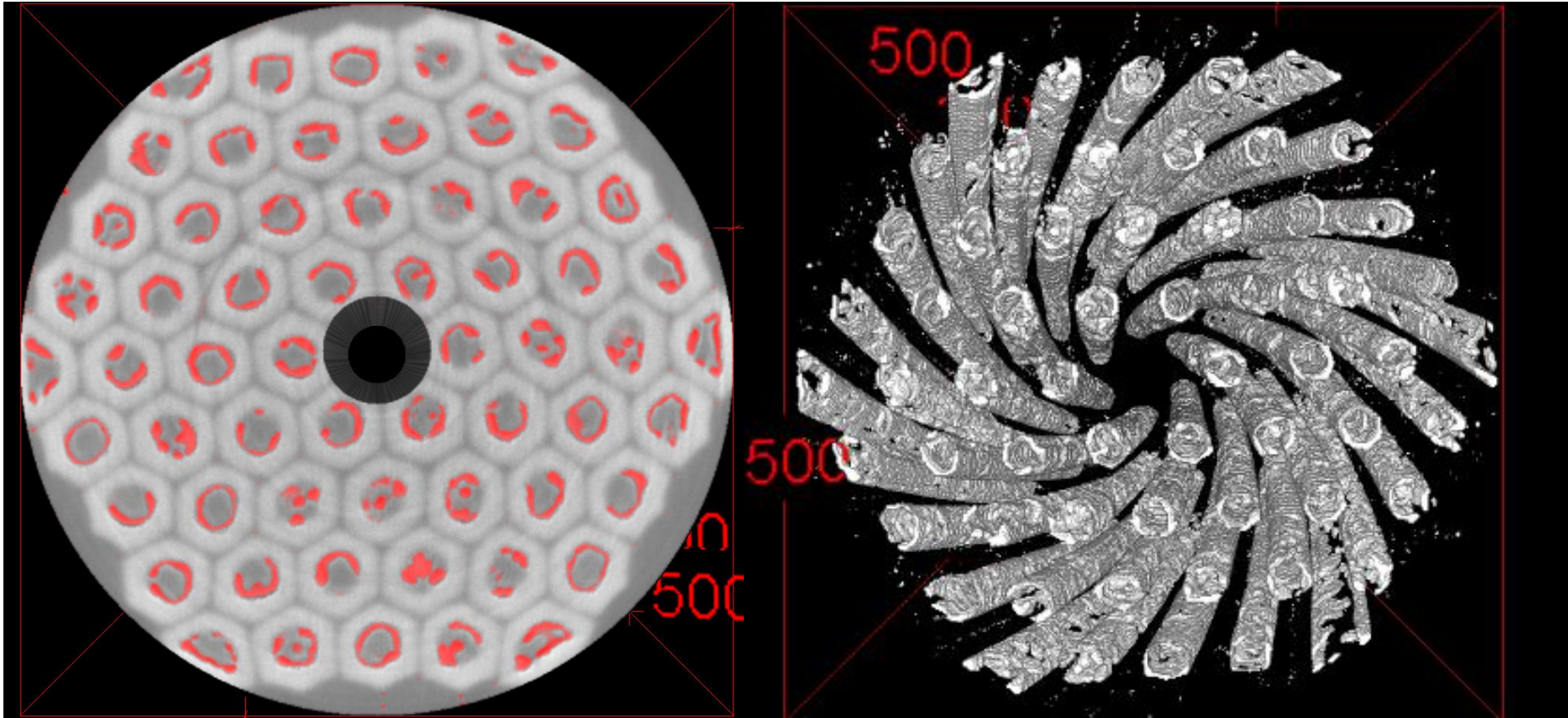


*Irreversible degradation is determined by filament cracks and residual strain on  $\text{Nb}_3\text{Sn}$  imposed by plastically deformed Cu*

*FEM suggests that smaller filaments and higher Cu/nonCu ratio lead to higher stress tolerance*

# *XRD Microtomography*

## *Void morphology in RRP wires*

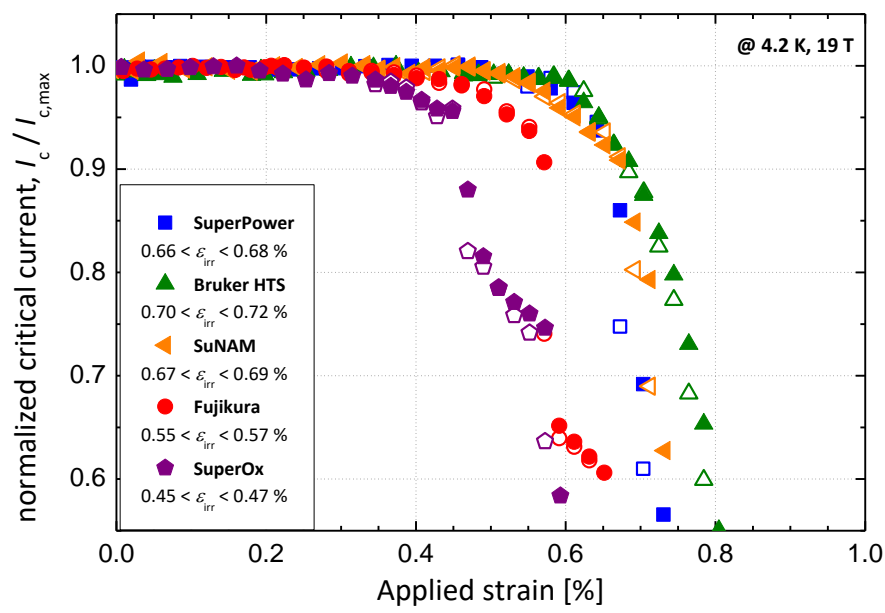


***And what about REBCO tapes ?***

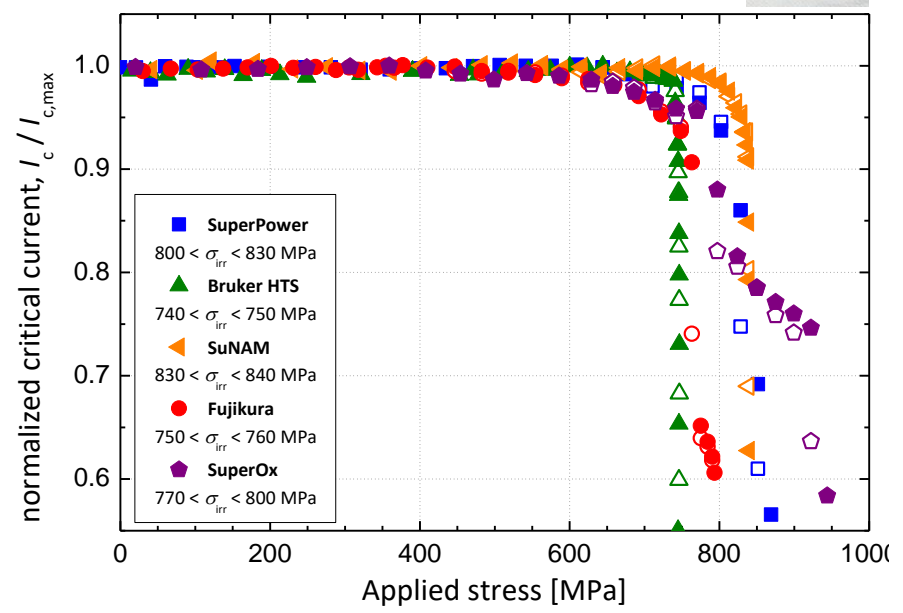


# REBCO CCs: Dependence of $I_c$ on axial loads

## $I_c$ vs. axial strain



## $I_c$ vs. axial stress

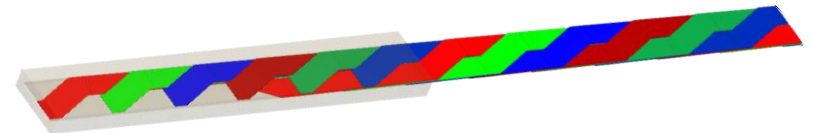
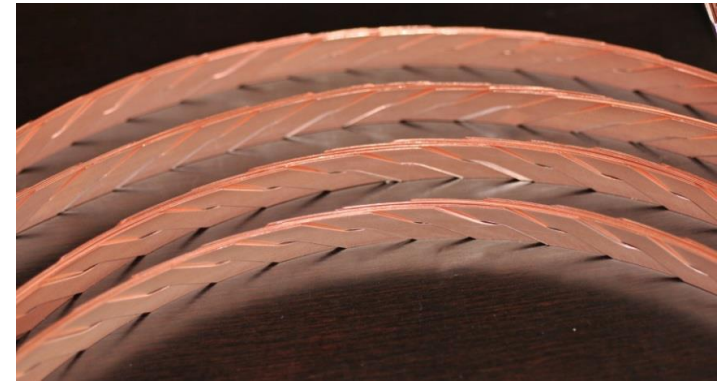
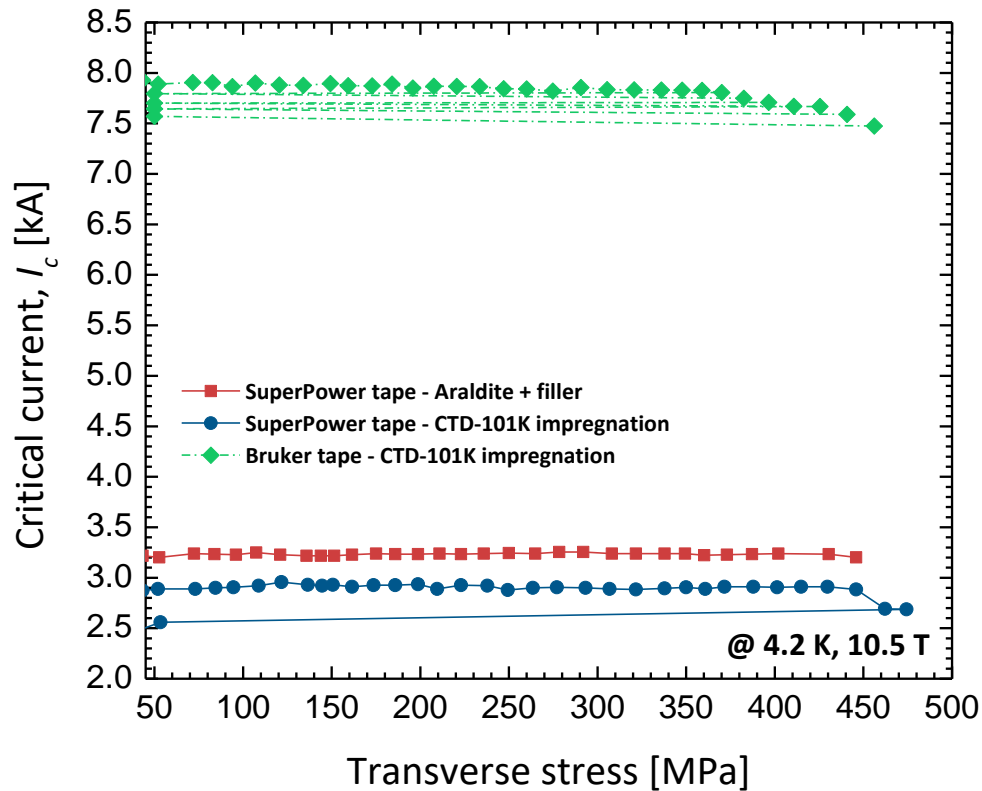


- REBCO CCs are inherently strong, ~50% is a high strength alloy
- Very low stress effect  $\rightarrow$  curves are flat in rev. region
- Irreversible stress limits above 500 MPa
- The only weakness is delamination...





# REBCO Roebel cables under transverse compression



- **2 REBCO tape manufacturers**
- **2 different impregnation resins**
- **Irreversible stress limit > 400 MPa**